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PRINCESS' DEEPLY MOVING AND SEARINGLY HONEST MESSAGE TO NATION

KATE: I'M NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET...

By **Emily Ferguson** Royal Editor

WITH remarkable candour and a deeply held sense of purpose the Princess of Wales reveals she has "good days and bad days" while undergoing gruelling chemotherapy for cancer – and acknowledges she's "not out of the woods yet".

In a personal statement Kate, 42, announced she is

TURN TO PAGE4

Pictures: OLIVER HARDT/GETTY, SWNS

We're playing fur-fur-two

By **Stephen Beech**

THE Three Lions won't have to say Auf Wiedersehen, Pet to their dear dogs while in Germany – FA chiefs have adorned their Euro 2024 hotel bedrooms with pictures of their pooches mocked up as royalty.

England's Instagram account asked fans to choose their favourite pawtrait ahead of the opening game for skipper Harry Kane and his team against Serbia, tomorrow.

Everton goalie Jordan Pickford's Cavapoo was given a pink gown and golden crown and the Chow Chow of Chelsea midfielder Conor Gallagher is also seen wearing a sparkling coronet.

Then there are gold epaulettes for keeper Aaron Ramsdale's Chow Chow. The Arsenal star has spoken previously about how his pooch has helped him get through some tough times.

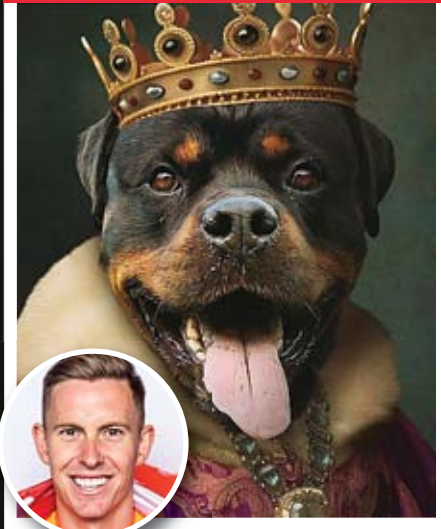
The dogs of Crystal Palace playmaker Eberechi Eze, his Eagles goalie teammate Dean Henderson and Newcastle winger Anthony Gordon were given a makeover too.

Boss Gareth Southgate's squad are fancied by many pundits to lift the Euro trophy.

Perhaps, at long last, football's coming bone...

ONE OF BEST ENGLAND TEAMS: PAGES 20&21

JORDAN PICKFORD

DEAN HENDERSON

HARRY KANE

EBERECHI EZE

ANTHONY GORDON

AARON RAMSDALE

CONOR GALLAGHER

Classic Cortina that hit target for 1970 squad

Loan star...each player had a 1600E in Mexico

By **Dean Murray**

SOME way from the dream motors of today's footballers, an auction is selling a compact Cortina given to the 1970 England World Cup squad.

Thirty of the 1600E models were loaned to the players by Ford for the duration of the tournament in Mexico.

Four years after England's 1966 glory at Wembley, the squad featured in adverts beaming happily alongside the cars. The Cortina going under the hammer was loaned to striker Franny Lee and bought by the Manchester City legend, for a discount, for his wife at the end of the loan.

The car features a logo with crossed flags – of the tournament hosts and the Union flag, not the Cross of St George. Cars were registered sequentially as GWC for "Great World Cup". Lee, who died last year, said: "This was a top car. I recall paying around £600 to £700 for it. The only problem I had was the stickers. If some people who supported a rival team knew it was my car, they would leave their mark."

The car, offered by H&H Classics, has an estimate of £50,000 to £60,000 when it is sold at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambs, on Wednesday.

‘Good and bad days’ ...but Kate will be at Trooping the Colour

FROM PAGE ONE

“making good progress” and feels well enough to attend today’s Trooping the Colour with her children – her first public appearance since Christmas Day last year.

Sharing an incredibly open message, the Princess gave her innermost thoughts on her health, family life and sense of duty.

Kate, who revealed her diagnosis in March, said the treatment leaves her “weak and tired” at times but when she is well enough she can focus on the things that give her joy – and reveals she has even started “to do a little work from home”.

While not returning to duties full time, she feels well enough to perform a small number of summer public engagements.

The Princess says: “I am making good progress but, as anyone going through chemotherapy will know, there are good days and bad days. On those bad days you feel weak, tired and you have to give in to your body resting. But on the good days, when you feel stronger, you want to make the most of feeling well.

“My treatment is ongoing and will be for a few more months.

Patient

“On the days I feel well enough, it is a joy to engage with school life, spend personal time on the things that give me energy and positivity, as well as starting to do a little work from home.

“I’m looking forward to attending The King’s Birthday Parade this weekend with my family and hope to join a few public engagements over the summer, but equally knowing I am not out of the woods yet.

“I am learning how to be patient, especially with uncertainty. Taking each day as it comes, listening to my body and allowing myself to take this much-needed time to heal.”

She released a poignant photo, taken this week in the grounds of Windsor Castle by Matt Porteous.

In blazer, jeans and a plain T-shirt, the future Queen stands under a willow and gazes up at the sky. It is understood the picture reflects the idea that connecting with nature is supporting her recovery.

As the Princess revealed her diagnosis in a video, she asked for time, space and privacy as she started chemotherapy. Sat on a bench surrounded by flowers, Kate said her major abdominal surgery at the London Clinic was successful but post-operative tests revealed cancer had been present.

Kensington Palace has not given updates since, though Prince William recently said she was “doing well”. His wife said she has been “blown away” by messages of support: “It really has made the world of difference to William and me and has helped us both through some of the harder times.”

Kate will travel down the Mall with Prince George, 10, Princess Charlotte, nine, and Prince Louis, six, in a state carriage, while the Prince of Wales rides.

She will watch the parade from the Major General’s Office and join the Royal Family on the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Kate is understood to have told the King personally she was accepting his invitation. A Palace spokesman said he was “delighted”. She was keen to attend as she wanted to support her father-in-law who continues his cancer treatment. Kate is not expected to attend Garter Day on Monday or Royal Ascot, which starts the next day. Rishi Sunak said it was “wonderful news” the Princess will be at Trooping the Colour.

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Video....Kate revealed her diagnosis in March

Christmas...Kate has not been at a public engagement seen December

ANALYSIS

EMILY FERGUSON
Royal Editor

IT is welcome news that the Princess of Wales feels she is well enough to attend Trooping the Colour today, in her first public engagement since last Christmas.

Her searingly honest message goes into incredible detail about her cancer treatment, which she says will continue for “a few more months”.

Kate admits to feeling weak and tired, and many will be struck by just how much detail she has given about how the chemotherapy is affecting her.

It’s rare for a member of the Royal Family to be so open and revealing about their health. And many who have gone through the gruelling treatment themselves will be able to relate to her words.

It also indicates that with time, the Princess will reveal more details about her cancer.

Her decision to go into such detail shows just how much in touch with the nation she is, as she carefully gets the balance of information and privacy just right.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will be all to aware of the incessant speculation and demand for information about Kate’s health.

Her brave cancer video stemmed the initial brutal wave of rumours online. But as the weeks passed the trolls slowly started to reappear.

However the future Queen has delivered an update on her own terms and from the heart.

Her determination to attend the King’s birthday parade also highlights her unwavering commitment to her family, as she looks forward to supporting her father-in-law and husband at an important royal event.

COMMENT

MICHELLE MITCHELL
Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK

CANCER affects everyone differently and no two journeys are the same.

The Princess of Wales has chosen to share her experience, shining a light on the highs and lows of treatment.

It remains incredibly important that Catherine has the time and space to recover privately.

I am sure her words will resonate with many others affected by cancer, especially those going through chemotherapy. Cancer treatment can impact both physically and emotionally, and most people will experience good and bad days.

The Princess is helping to bring attention to an experience faced by many cancer patients around the world and such a brave act prompts us all to reflect on our own health and listen to our bodies.

There are many signs and symptoms of cancer, but it’s essential to remember you must contact your GP if you notice something that isn’t normal for you. It probably won’t be cancer. But if it is, spotting it at an early stage means treatment is more likely to be successful.

On behalf of Cancer Research UK, I would like to thank the Princess of Wales for sharing an update on her treatment.

Her words will mean so much to other cancer patients going through their own experience.

MONTHS AS TREATMENT GOES ON

Pictures: MATT PORTEOUS, CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY

Year apart...the Princess of Wales in newly-released photo; above, at Trooping the Colour in June 2023

Friday 14th June, 2024

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCESS OF WALES

I have been blown away by all the kind messages of support and encouragement over the last couple of months. It really has made the world of difference to William and me and has helped us both through some of the harder times.

I am making good progress, but as anyone going through chemotherapy will know, there are good days and bad days. On those bad days you feel weak, tired and you have to give in to your body resting. But on the good days, when you feel stronger, you want to make the most of feeling well.

My treatment is ongoing and will be for a few more months. On the days I feel well enough, it is a joy to engage with school life, spend personal time on the things that give me energy and positivity, as well as starting to do a little work from home.

I'm looking forward to attending The King's Birthday Parade this weekend with my family and hope to join a few public engagements over the summer, but equally knowing I am not out of the woods yet.

I am learning how to be patient, especially with uncertainty. Taking each day as it comes, listening to my body, and allowing myself to take this much needed time to heal.

Thank you so much for your continued understanding, and to all of you who have so bravely shared your stories with me.

Now it's Sir Alan Bates

By **Emily Ferguson**
Royal Editor

POST OFFICE hero Alan Bates has been knighted for his 20-year fight for justice in the Horizon software scandal.

The campaigner led a crusade against bosses on behalf of hundreds of sub-postmasters wrongly accused of mishandling money at branches.

The accounting software scandal became a national talking point after TV drama Mr Bates Vs The Post Office.

Now King Charles has moved to recognise the true British hero in his annual Birthday Honours.

Sir Alan, the title character of the four-part ITV series played by Toby Jones, said he heard the news while watching Ms Vennells squirm under questioning at the Horizon IT inquiry last month.

The former sub-postmaster said his knighthood was a surprise, but was honoured to be recognised for his "hard slog over many years".

Sir Alan had initially refused to accept an OBE while former Post Office boss Paula Vennells held a CBE, given to her in 2019.

But in January, she bowed to mounting public pressure, including a petition signed by more than a million people, and handed the gong back.

Sir Alan, of Llandudno, North Wales, who founded the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance, said of the original OBE offer: "I felt it would have been quite offensive to many of the group if I'd accepted it." He said of his knighthood:

'Knighthood's not about me but the group and the horrendous things that happened to them'

"It was a bit of a surprise, it sort of came out of the blue.

The day he found out turned out to be a whirlwind – within the space of a few hours, as well as being knighted, he had also spoken to the Metropolitan Police about the Horizon probe, watched some of Ms Vennells' inquiry evidence, and saw the General Election called.

Modest Sir Alan said his knighthood was not about him, but a reflection of his group and the "horrendous things that have happened to them – and the story's not over yet".

He added: "If this adds another string to my bow to help me go forward and get some finality for people in the financial settlement, then so be it."

The Government announced those who had their convictions for theft and false accounting quashed would be eligible for payouts of £600,000.

But hundreds of sub-postmasters are still awaiting compensation.

In 2019, after years of campaigning, JFSA gained a High Court victory when a judge ruled that the Post Office's system was full of "bugs, errors and defects".

It resulted in the organisation agreeing to settle with the 555 claimants.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has been looking into ways to clear the names of those wrongfully convicted. Sir Alan is among more than 1,000 people from across the UK to receive honours in yesterday's list.

Other recipients include former Labour PM Gordon Brown, *below.* He is made a Companion of Honour – a special award granted to those who have made a major contribution to the arts, science, medicine or government over a long period.

There are 65 Companions at any one time.

The King, who is being treated for cancer, has also honoured his top medical team.

Dr Michael Dixon, head of the Royal Medical Household, and Charles's GP Dr Fiona Butler – otherwise known as the Apothecary to the King – are recognised for their personal dedication to the monarch and the Royal Family.

Dr Dixon is made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and Dr Butler a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

Awards of the Royal Victorian Order, which are in the King's gift, are bestowed independently of Downing Street to people who have served the monarch or the Royal Family in a personal way.

Michael Dooley is also made an LVO for his role as Queen Camilla's physician.

Meanwhile, representatives from two financial investment firms are recognised for their personal services to the late Queen Elizabeth.

Nicholas Osler, partner in private client tax services at Smith and Williamson, is made an LVO, as well as Richard Fitzalan Howard, senior adviser at Stonehage Fleming Investment Management.

OPINION: PAGE 14

Oceans ambassador...Duran Duran star Simon

Gongs for stars of Strictly and retro pop charts

By **Jan Disley**

STARS who have used their fame to help boost charitable causes are among hundreds recognised in the King's Birthday Honours.

Duran Duran singer Simon Le Bon said he was "beyond surprised" to be made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Simon, 65, who has helped raise awareness about saving the oceans as an ambassador for the Blue Marine Foundation, as well as for the homelessness charity Centrepoint, said: "What an incredible and totally unexpected honour! I am truly thrilled."

Strictly Come Dancing pro dancer Amy Dowden also got an MBE for her services to fundraising and raising awareness of inflammatory bowel disease.

The 33-year-old, an advocate and ambassador for charity Crohn's & Colitis UK, said the award was "beyond her wildest dreams" and accepted it "on behalf" of all those who live with the illness.

Amy is due to return to Strictly this year following a high-profile battle with breast cancer.

There was another Strictly MBE for actress Rose Ayling-Ellis, 29, who won new fans in 2022 as the first deaf contestant on the show.

And joining the MBE crew was Heather Small, 59, of M People, whose hits include the 1993 floor filler Moving On Up. She was recognised for her voluntary and charitable services.

Singer Rebecca Ferguson, 37, who first found fame on The X Factor, gets the same honour for services to the music industry.

Countdown star Susie Dent, 59, said she was "delighted" to get her MBE for sharing her joy of language. The lexicographer, the Channel 4 show's resident expert in Dictionary Corner for over 30 years, was celebrating "on behalf of word lovers everywhere".

Artist Tracey Emin, 60, becomes a Dame. She said: "Dame Tracey has a good ring to it."

Moving on up...M People's Heather

Delighted, thrilled, ecstatic...Susie

Dancing for joy... Amy Dowden

Fundraising hikes...grieving dads Tim Owen, left, Mike Palmer and Andy Airey

Father's Day for trio who walked for girls

By **Jan Disley**

EXTRAORDINARY everyday heroes were honoured for contributions to the country – among them three grief-stricken dads who campaigned for suicide prevention.

Andy Airey, Mike Palmer and Tim Owen started Three Dads Walking in memory of their daughters who took their own lives – Sophie Airey, 29, Beth Palmer, 17, and Emily Owen, 19.

The men completed a 500-mile hike from Stirling to Norwich last month to bring in money for the charity Papyrus, for which they have raised more than £1.4million. They all collect MBEs.

Tim, of Shouldham, Norfolk, said: "For all of us, it's bittersweet. All three of us in a heartbeat would swap this award, this honour, to get our girls back."

Husband and wife George Atkinson, 77, and Giulietta Galli-Atkinson, 76, are awarded British Empire Medals for their work as road safety campaigners.

The couple, from Rugby in Warwickshire, have spent 25 years helping to appeal for tougher sentences for drivers who harm pedestrians after their daughter Livia, 16, was killed while walking home from ballet in Enfield, North London, in 1998.

Meanwhile, Vicki and James Woodall, who raised more than £1.5million to help beat childhood cancer get MBEs for services to cancer care and research for children. They said the honour felt "surreal".

Their youngest son George – now 11 and cancer free – was four when diagnosed with a rare and aggressive tumour on his spine.

Bristol couple Mary and Charles Dobson, 80 and 81 respectively, whose charitable trust has distributed almost £7million in grants, were made MBEs for charitable services to children and young adults living with disabilities and life-threatening illnesses.

Elsewhere, Gurkha veteran Hari Budha Magar, 44, who lost both legs serving in Afghanistan was made an MBE recognising his "mission" to change perceptions of people with disabilities.

Donations...Charles and Mary Dobson

versus the Post Office

Pictures: ANDY STENNING, PA, GETTY, SWNS, ITV, CHANNEL 4, NETFLIX

Campaign against injustice...Alan Bates and the TV drama, inset

Gongs...Graeme Souness and Ali McCoist

Sporting stars are recognised as champions

By **Jan Disley**

CYCLING star Mark Cavendish was knighted in the King's Birthday Honours.

The 39 year-old sprint cyclist, who is on the overseas list under his Isle of Man address, said that he was "truly humbled" by the gong.

Former cyclist Chris Boardman and former Liverpool footballer Graeme Souness were made CBEs.

And former England player Karen Carney was made an OBE.

In golf, Stephen Gallacher becomes an MBE for services to the sport while Sandy Lyle gets an OBE.

Services

Former Rangers and Scotland player, now pundit, Ali McCoist gets an OBE for services to football and broadcasting.

Jasmin Paris, an ultra-marathon runner from Midlothian, becomes an MBE for her services to fell running.

In March, she became the first woman ever to finish the Barkley Marathons 100-mile race, completing it with 99 seconds to spare in the 60-hour cut-off.

Cycling legend... Mark Cavendish

Imelda's pride as she's Crowned with a damehood

Honour...Imelda Staunton and as the Queen in the Crown, inset

THE Crown star Imelda Staunton has paid tribute to the "great Dames" who have led the way as she joined their ranks in the King's Birthday Honours.

The 68-year-old theatre and film star said she felt being made a Dame "recognises the importance of the arts in this country" as she was honoured for services to drama and charity.

Dame Imelda's stage career has seen her star in musicals including Hello, Dolly!, Into The Woods and Sweeney Todd.

And she earned a Bafta TV nomination for her fictional portrayal of Charles' mother, the late Queen, in Netflix's hit series The Crown.

She said: "I am really thrilled. I feel

By **Jan Disley**

genuinely humbled to be recognised on the same level as the amazing actresses, all the great Dames, who have led the way for so many of us.

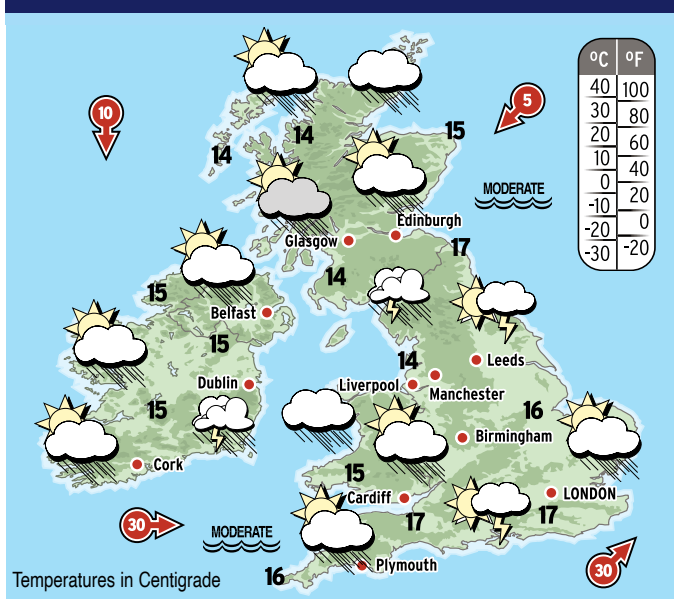
"It is their talent, dedication, wit and energy that have paved the way for us all and have set the standards to which we all aspire."

Among her peers to also receive the honour are Dame Helen Mirren, Dame Maggie Smith, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Julie Andrews, Dame Vanessa Redgrave and Dame Kristin Scott Thomas.

Dame Imelda's charity work has included being an ambassador for national homelessness charity Crisis, and she supported a winter fundraising campaign from international disaster relief charity ShelterBox.

She said: "I am also delighted that this honour recognises my support for charity as well as my work as an actress.

"I feel privileged to be able to use the success I have achieved to help others who find themselves in difficulty and to offer support to all the wonderful charities and charity workers who strive so hard on behalf of others."

WEATHER FORECAST

Today's summary: Scattered showers, some heavy

North West: Cloudy and showery, heavy with hail and thunder possible. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 13C (55F).

Northern Ireland: Bright with some sunshine, but also scattered light showers. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 15C (59F).

Wales: Sunshine and showers, heavy at times. Moderate south-westerly winds. A cool day. High 16C (61F).

Midlands: Sunshine and showers, heavy at times. Moderate south-westerly winds. A cool day. High 16C (61F).

North East/Yorks: Mostly cloudy with the chance of showers, thundery for a time. Gentle westerly winds. Cool. High 15C (59F).

Scotland: Bright with heavy showers. Hail and thunder are possible later. Light winds. Chilly. High 15C (59F).

East Anglia: Bright but showery. Hail and thunder are possible. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 16C (61F).

London/South East: Bright with heavy, blustery showers. Hail and thunder. Strong south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

South: Sunshine and showers, heavy at times. Moderate south-westerly winds. A cool day. High 16C (61F).

South West: Bright with some sunshine, but also scattered light showers. Strong westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

Channel Isles: Patchy rain clearing to sunshine and thundery showers. Strong south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Rough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Rain across Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and northern England. A mixture of sunny spells and a threat of showers developing elsewhere.

SIX-DAY FORECAST
Temperatures in Centigrade

	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max	WED min	WED max	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max
London	11	19	12	21	12	20	10	20	12	20	13	22
Belfast	10	14	10	16	8	15	9	15	11	17	12	18
Birmingham	9	18	9	19	10	18	9	18	11	18	13	21
Cardiff	10	17	10	19	10	19	10	19	12	18	12	20
Glasgow	9	15	10	17	9	16	9	15	12	17	12	18
Manchester	10	17	9	17	10	17	10	16	12	18	13	19
Newcastle	9	16	9	16	9	16	9	15	11	17	13	19
Norwich	10	18	11	19	11	18	10	17	11	18	13	21
Plymouth	10	16	11	18	11	18	11	18	12	17	13	18

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.4	0.03	10	15
Aberporth	4.1	0.24	12	13
Alnwick	3.5	0.03	11	17
Belfast	6.4	0.37	10	16
Birmingham	2.1	0.22	10	17
B'mouth	4.7	0.02	12	18
Bristol	0.7	0.28	12	16
Cardiff	4.8	0.13	12	16
Durham	3.0	0.03	10	16
Edinburgh	0.8	0.42	10	16
Glasgow	1.0	0.12	10	16
Hull	2.0	0.42	11	17
Ipswich	4.4	0.02	10	18
Leeds	2.2	0.09	10	18
Lincoln	1.6	0.05	11	17
London	4.8	0.13	11	20
Manchester	3.3	0.10	12	18
Oxford	2.1	0.25	11	17
S'hampton	4.3	0.17	12	17
St Andrews	0.3	0.12	10	15

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 2.16pm, sets: 1.35am
SUN rises London: 4.42am, sets: 9.19pm
Manchester rises: 4.39am, sets: 9.40pm

Full Moon 22 June

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(8.51am), (9.12pm)
Liverpool	(6.17am), (6.53pm)
Greenock	(7.00am), (8.21pm)
Dover	(6.26am), (6.43pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 2pm yesterday)
Warmest: Mildenhall 19C (66F)
Coldest: Baltasound 7C (45F)
Wettest: Threave 1.11in.
Sunniest: Kirkwall 5.0hr.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	10.01pm-4.46am
Birmingham	9.32pm-4.44am
Bristol	9.29pm-4.52am
Glasgow	10.04pm-4.30am
London	9.19pm-4.42am
Manchester	9.40pm-4.39am
Newcastle	9.47pm-4.26am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Thunder	17C/63F	Amsterdam	Rain	18C/64F
Brussels	Showers	17C/63F	Brussels	Showers	18C/64F
Dublin	Rain	15C/59F	Dublin	Thunder	16C/61F
Frankfurt	Fair	20C/68F	Frankfurt	Cloudy	21C/70F
Geneva	Rain	20C/68F	Geneva	Fair	24C/75F
Lisbon	Sunny	22C/72F	Lisbon	Fair	24C/75F
Madrid	Sunny	30C/86F	Madrid	Sunny	30C/86F
Paris	Cloudy	18C/64F	Paris	Rain	18C/64F
Rome	Sunny	26C/79F	Rome	Fair	26C/79F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Cloudy	14	57
Athens	Sunny	35	95
Barcelona	Fair	24	75
Berlin	Cloudy	20	68
Budapest	Fair	22	72
Cairo	Sunny	40	104
Cape Town	Sunny	17	63
Casablanca	Sunny	23	73
Corfu	Sunny	28	82
Dublin	Shwrs	12	54
Dubrovnik	Sunny	24	75
Faro	Sunny	24	75
Florence	Fair	24	75
Gibraltar	Sunny	23	73
Guernsey	Fair	16	61
Hong Kong	Shwrs	28	82
Istanbul	Sunny	28	82
Jersey	Fair	15	59
Larnaca	Sunny	33	91
Las Palmas	Sunny	24	75
Los Angeles	Sunny	20	68
Luxor	Sunny	41	106
Malaga	Sunny	28	82
Mallorca	Sunny	26	79
Malta	Sunny	26	79
Melbourne	Cloudy	11	52
Miami	Thndr	29	84
Moscow	Fair	20	68
Nairobi	Sunny	23	73
New Delhi	Sunny	41	106
New York	Sunny	28	82
Nice	Sunny	22	72
Nicosia	Sunny	43	109
Perth	Sunny	19	66
Prague	Cloudy	17	63
Singapore	Thndr	32	90
Stockholm	Cloudy	17	63
Sydney	Shwrs	15	59
Tel Aviv	Sunny	33	91
Tenerife	Sunny	24	75
Toronto	Sunny	28	82
Tunis	Sunny	28	82
Venice	Fair	22	72
Vienna	Fair	20	68
Warsaw	Fair	19	66

Supplied by MeteoGroup

Mess...Will Ashby has blasted the big parties

Farmers furious at Labour's 87-word manifesto mention

By **Sam Stevenson**

ANGRY farmers have hit out at Labour for having just 87 words on agriculture in their 131-page manifesto.

The agricultural industry has welcomed a pledge from the Conservatives and Lib Dems to increase the agriculture budget by £1billion and protect it.

But Sir Keir Starmer was accused of showing a "complete lack of commitment to the countryside" in his blueprint, which does not contain a single word about the fishing industry.

Steve Reed, Labour's Shadow Defra Secretary, says Labour "will treat the countryside with respect".

Steve Barclay, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, warned "British farming now faces the very real threat of a Labour government with absolutely no plan for our rural economy.

"A Labour government would be a disaster for farming, putting food security at risk."

A UK-wide badger cull to drive down cases of bovine TB was described as "ineffective" in the Labour manifesto.

However, data has shown a fall in the disease, which can devastate livestock and cause crisis for cattle farmers, since the measures were introduced.

Ross Cherrington, a Westcountry Rivers Trust farm adviser, said Labour was "out of touch" for claiming the cull was not working. Cheshire dairy farmer Phil Latham said: "New herd incidence is down since TB started being tackled more holistically. Why would you change the current winning strategy unless your motivation was anything other than disease control? Can Labour please define 'ineffective' for me?"

National Farmers' Union president Tom Bradshaw said: "The language around bovine TB in Labour's manifesto – in which they claim the badger cull has been 'ineffective' – is incredibly unhelpful.

"It disregards the latest science showing a 56% decline in this awful disease – which we should remember kills thousands of cattle a year – and disrespects the incredible efforts our members have made to try to deliver TB eradication by 2038."

Food security risks ...Steve Barclay

Meanwhile, farmer Will Ashby in East Sussex said he was "disillusioned by all of the parties".

He said: "Britain is a broken mess and, despite the fact that I don't want a Labour government, the current government is responsible for that."

Labour's 23,000-word manifesto's lack of an agricultural budget was described as "deeply disappointing" by the Mr Bradshaw

He said: "This isn't just 'money for farmers'. It's the funding which helps the sector transition from the old EU system, allows farm businesses to invest and makes governments' aims around sustainable food production, food security, the environment and net zero possible."

PM REVEALS

From **Martyn Brown**
at the G7 in Puglia, Italy

RISHI Sunak says an international coalition will crack down on migrant smuggling gangs and help end the small boat crisis.

The Prime Minister told how the leaders of the world's seven richest nations have agreed for the first time to take tough action to tackle what is now a global emergency.

He was speaking at the end of a successful G7 summit in Italy, which also led to a massive £40billion boost for Ukraine and tough new sanctions for Russia.

The PM and Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni led the talks on immigration on the last day of the two-day summit. Stopping the boats has become a central pillar for both of them in their pitches to voters.

More than 145,000 people have reached Italy by sea so far this year, a sharp increase on the 88,000 at the same time last year. In the UK, around 28,000 people have crossed the Channel in small boats, compared with 11,500 in the first six months of 2023.

Speaking at a press conference last night Mr Sunak said: "Illegal migration is now a global emergency. More people are moving across borders than at any time in our history. We cannot stand by and watch this human tragedy unfold.

"We all agree that it is for sovereign nations to control their borders and not the gangs. The G7 has today launched a new coalition to counter people smuggling."

He added that it was "very clear that the conversation in Europe has changed on the topic of illegal migration", pointing to a letter signed by 15 countries last month calling on the European Commission to tighten migration policy and look at third-country schemes.

This may require a reassessment of what counts as a safe country under the EU's asylum rules, Mr Sunak said.

Asked if he believed he would be able to secure reform of the European Convention on Human Rights following his discussions at the G7, he added: "I've been very clear that I believe our plans are compatible with our international obligations.

"But if I'm forced to choose between the security of our borders in our country, and a foreign court including the ECHR, then I'm going to put our country's security and our border security first every single time."

The G7 meet has been a great success for Mr Sunak. He took a leading role in securing the deal for Ukraine, which will use

Q Will G7 coalition end the small boat crisis?

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Pictures: ADAM GERRARD, IAN VOGLER, GETTY, PA

Global coalition to tackle migrant smuggling gangs

Warm welcome ...Rishi and the Pope at G7 summit

frozen Russian assets to help rebuild the war-ravaged nation.

Yesterday he and the other leaders were greeted individually by Pope Francis, 87 – the first pontiff to address a G7 summit. After entering the room in a wheelchair, he warned of the dangers of AI, saying "no machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being". The leaders were also treated to a parachute display using the flags of Allied nations, but a video shared on social media appeared to show US President Joe Biden wandering away afterwards. Following speculation, Mr Sunak insisted Mr Biden was simply "being very polite" by going to talk to a parachutist.

Remainer...Sir Keir Starmer

Meanwhile, Sir Keir Starmer has insisted he will not take Britain back into the European Union. He told the BBC's Nick Robinson: "We obviously had a referendum on this. I campaigned to remain, I voted to remain. But the vote was to leave. We've left and we're not going back."

Rishi: I'll stay in politics for 5 more years

EXCLUSIVE
By Martyn Brown

RISHI Sunak has vowed to stick around in British politics for at least another five years regardless of the outcome of the General Election.

The Prime Minister said he would serve a full term if he was victorious on July 4, keeping him at No10 until 2029.

And he promised voters that even if the Tories were defeated at the polls he would serve at least another five years as MP for Richmond and Northallerton.

He made his pledge to the Daily Express as he took a step back from the campaign trail while attending the G7 summit in Italy.

It is the first time he has confirmed he will stay on for five more years.

Last month Mr Sunak, who was first elected in 2015, said his North Yorkshire constituency was "wonderful" and he would remain in Parliament whatever the outcome when the country goes to the polls in less than three weeks.

There has been speculation that Mr Sunak, who previously worked at a hedge fund in California, could be eyeing a job in Silicon Valley as the Tories struggle to make up ground against Labour.

Asked if he was planning any changes to his campaign style, Mr Sunak said: "No, we're out and about, and it's really clear what the choice is at the election."

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN
Deputy Political Editor in Puglia, Italy

FOR someone halfway through a gruelling General Election campaign, Rishi Sunak remains in a remarkably chipper mood.

"I'm going to keep fighting," he said.

He will need to, as the Tory campaign has hit a few bumps in the road – the rain-soaked election launch in May and the furious backlash following the PM's decision to leave the D-Day commemorations early.

He's has some good moments too, notably out-muscling Sir Keir Starmer in the first head-to-head TV debate on the BBC.

But the emergency of Nigel Farage's Reform UK as a new "opposition" party has worried many within the Conservative Party.

Labour, too, has had some shaky moments, including the Diane Abbott saga. With just 20 days to go until polls close, anything can happen and there's still much to play for.

One thing is now for certain. Mr Sunak will still be around in some shape or form after July 5.

EXCLUSIVE POLL REVEALS

Tories backed

Support...Mr Johnson with Sir Simon in North Yorkshire in 2019

'Labour dictatorship' fears as Boris speaks up for pals

By Christian Calgie

BORIS Johnson stepped in to back Tory candidates yesterday, amid the disastrous poll predictions for his party.

The former PM, 59, endorsed former allies, including Sir Simon Clarke, Paul Bristow, Nick Fletcher and Jane Stevenson, in videos on X.

Tom Hunt, standing in Ipswich after winning the seat in 2019, was described by him as wanting to protect his constituency from illegal immigration.

Mr Johnson also sounded the alarm over what he said would be a Labour "elective dictatorship".

He suggested Britain faced a Labour majority as big as Sir Tony Blair's and Margaret Thatcher's combined.

Mr Johnson told those planning to voted for Nigel Farage's Reform party that they would end up with a "dangerous" majority for Sir Keir Starmer.

He wrote: "If Starmer gets a majority on the scale currently forecast, it won't be just the rich who get soaked – it will be the entire population.

"A Starmer majority would be bad enough; a freak majority would be dangerous."

EXCLUSIVE
By Steph Spyro
Senior Political Correspondent

MOST voters don't believe the Conservative Party will be "completely" wiped out at the general election despite a constant onslaught from Labour and Reform UK.

An exclusive poll for the Daily Express found more than half (55%) think Rishi Sunak's party is "too well established" to be decimated on July 4, compared with 33% who disagree.

More than half (52%) believe the Conservatives will survive the election, even if its representation in Parliament is "significantly" slashed.

Nearly a third (31%) expect the Tories not to survive, while 17% say they don't know.

Problem

Reform leader Nigel Farage is gunning to make his party the new "voice of the opposition" come election day.

But Lachlan Rurlander, consultant at Whitestone Insight research consultancy, which carried out the survey for us, said: "Despite a narrowing between the Conservatives and Reform from six to just two points, Nigel Farage and his party have some way to go before they are seen as a realistic alternative to form a Government, as opposed to a protest vote." The results of the poll of 2,014 adults, if translated into seats, would see Labour winning 492 seats (41% of votes), the Conservatives just 47 (19% of the vote), the Lib Dems 60 (11%) and Reform three (17%). This would give Labour a majority of 334 seats.

Exactly half of the people surveyed on Wednesday and Thursday agreed the Tories would be more likely to win the next election than Reform UK, while 20% disagreed.

And 54% thought Mr Farage was too divisive a figure to be leader of the opposition, while 28% disagreed.

When asked by the Express whether he could unite the Right against Labour as opposition leader by 2029, he said: "I think so, yes.

"Who knows how many Tory MPs there'll be by 2025. The number could be very small. The other problem they've got, and you've seen this in the polls in the last week, is the Liberal Democrats are on the rise.

"That reflects tactical voting that is going on certainly in southern and south-western England. Who's to say how many MPs the Conservatives are even going to have?"

When voters were asked whether Rishi Sunak was more unifying a figure than Mr Farage, 40% agreed while 39% disagreed. And Tory peer Lord Hayward suggested some polls were "seriously over-emphasising" the strength of Reform.

He referenced the Greenwich Council by-election in East London this week which saw the Tories win six times as many votes as Reform. Lord Hayward said this was despite Reform putting in significant effort by leafleting and knocking doors. "Some

FARAGE 'TOO DIVISIVE'

to survive the election

Pictures: JAMES MANNING/PA; AFP

Confident...Nigel Farage and Richard Tice yesterday

WE CAN BEAT SUNAK WITH SIX MILLION VOTES

By **Christian Calgie**

NIGEL Farage has predicted that Reform UK will win up to six million votes at the election, nearly doubling his previous record with UKIP in 2015.

He made the forecast after Thursday's bombshell YouGov poll that saw his party overtake the Tories for the first time.

Mr Farage said: "I genuinely think we can get over six million votes. I don't know where the ceiling is."

The last minor party to win more than six million votes at a Westminster election was the Liberal Democrats in 2010.

Mr Farage also predicted that Reform UK will win more votes than the Conservatives, but said even this level of success could go unrewarded by the British voting system.

He argued that if Reform were to win a "huge number of votes and a paltry number of seats", it would "tell us yet again Britain is broken and needs reform".

Changes would have to made to the electoral system by moving to a more proportional system to make it easier for smaller parties to breakthrough, he said.

The party also wants to tackle the "abomination" of the House of Lords and install a right for voters to force referendums on certain issues.

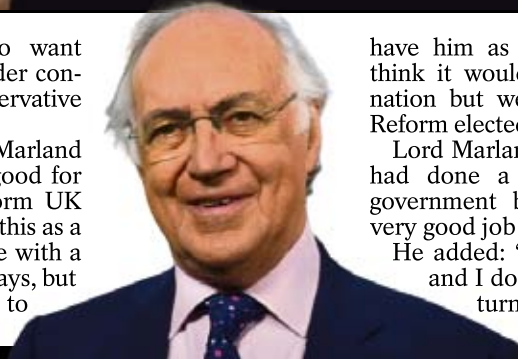
opinion polls are seriously over-emphasising Reform's strength. I don't think they expected to win but I think they did expect to do a lot better than they did."

Lord Hayward told how three other council by-elections last week all showed the Tories "clearly improving" on results in 2023.

Meanwhile former Conservative leader Lord Howard, *right*, disagreed with suggestions that Mr Farage should have been brought into the Tory fold years ago.

He told BBC Radio 4's World at One: "He's not a Conservative and I don't agree with many of his views – his party contains some people with some astonishing views.

"The truth is that a vote for Reform will just give Keir Starmer a big majority, and that will not help people who want lower taxes, who want immigration to be brought under control – these are things a Conservative government will deliver."

Meanwhile Tory peer Lord Marland suggested it would be "very good for the nation" to have the Reform UK leader as an MP, saying: "I say this as a Conservative that doesn't agree with a lot of things that Nigel Farage says, but I don't think it's a bad idea to have him as an elected politician. I think it would be very good for the nation but we don't want too many Reform elected politicians."

Lord Marland also said Rishi Sunak had done a "pretty good job" in government but "he hasn't done a very good job as a campaigner".

He added: "I do admire his energy and I do think it's not too late to turn it around".

Bus fare arrest PC fined £1.5k

By **Ellie Ng**

A POLICE officer who manhandled a woman in front of her young son as he wrongly arrested her for evading a bus fare has been fined £1,500 for assault.

At Westminster Magistrates' Court yesterday, Jocelyn Agyemang said PC Perry Lathwood had a "look of contempt in his eyes" and called her a "daft cow" during the arrest in Croydon, South London, on July 21.

She said the "deeply humiliating and embarrassing" incident had a "devastating effect".

Deputy Senior District Judge Tan Ikram said: "On this occasion, the officer crossed the line and got it wrong."

Lathwood, 50, of Normans Bay, East Sussex, who was convicted last month, was ordered to pay Ms Agyemang £200, £650 costs and a £600 victim surcharge.

The court heard he planned to appeal.

'Utter chaos' as long airport queues return

By **Stephen Beech**

Pictures: SWNS; LEE THOMAS

'Carnage'...lines outside Birmingham airport yesterday and Bristol, inset

LONG queues snaked outside an airport yesterday with scenes described as "carnage" raising fears of a summer of travel chaos.

Holidaymakers told to turn up three hours before flights after problems last week stood in long queues outside Birmingham Airport from 4am.

One passenger described "people collapsing all around the place".

And tedious waiting times spread to other airports around the country.

At Bristol Airport long lines started to form following delays at check-in and border control after new scanners became operational for the first time.

The queue for security was "all the way outside the terminal and down the street" by 5.55am, it was said.

Backlash

Some passengers reportedly missed their flights after being forced to wait in the long lines.

There are fears the "utter chaos" at Birmingham could go on for months as insiders claim the airport is understaffed. Problems began after the Government temporarily reintroduced rules preventing people from travelling with liquids in containers over 100ml in hand luggage.

EasyJet passengers had been advised to turn up for flights from Birmingham three hours early.

Airport bosses have criticised the Government for the liquid rules U-turn after some airports – including Birmingham – had installed 3D scanners. It should have meant they changed on June 1 so passengers could carry liquids up to two litres in hand luggage. Karen Dee, head of the Airport Operators' Association, said the "surprise" change was "sprung on us with very little time to react".

Nick Barton, the £700,000-a-year chief executive of Birmingham Airport, faced a backlash this week after he seemed to imply it was passengers' fault for not following baggage rules. He said: "A non-compliant bag with liquids over 100ml can add up to 20 minutes to each passenger's journey through security."

He said a pre-screening facility would be set up next week to ease queues, and blamed "bedding in" issues with a new security hall.

The airport said "ongoing building works" had added to the "usual busy morning" alongside security delays with the new technology. Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Stansted Airports said work on new security lanes would not be finished until later this year or early 2025.

The Department for Transport said: "Passengers should continue to check security requirements with their departure airport before travelling."

Pictures: JULIAN HAMILTON; GETTY; PA

Tragic...TV Michael

Final chat by Mosley goes on air

By **Hannah Roberts**

MICHAEL Mosley's "genius" has been remembered in a BBC Radio 4 programme airing the final interview by the late TV doctor.

There's Only One Michael Mosley, available on BBC Sounds, aired a chat with Professor Paul Bloom.

Michael, credited with popularising the 5:2 diet, died aged 67 of natural causes last week after he went missing on the Greek island of Symi.

Dr Chris van Tulleken said: "Michael's genius was to make himself the patient. We'll never forget him infecting himself with a tapeworm or having a camera put up his back passage for our benefit."

Admission...Adrian, 65

We would all Line up for Duty...

By **Hannah Roberts**

LINE Of Duty star Adrian Dunbar says the cast are desperate to see its return.

Asked if there could be a seventh series, he said yesterday: "I have to be very careful because, you know, we burn up the internet if we say anything but I mean, the point is, we all want it to happen. So if it were to happen, we'd be really happy."

Adrian, 65, who plays Supt Ted Hastings, said "all" included writer Jed Mercurio. The actor told BBC Radio 4's Today: "Who knows, he might be beavering away somewhere with an idea."

Line of Duty last aired on BBC1 in May 2021.

'Sue is my rock... I cannot imagine a world without her'

Tony Christie marks Carers Week

Devoted... Tony and wife Sue. Below, on stage

EXCLUSIVE

By **Paul Jeeves**

SINGING legend Tony Christie and his wife Sue say caring for each other as their health fails has increased their loving devotion after 56 years of marriage.

Tony, 81, says Sue, 75, is his "rock" who has made his dementia diagnosis less scary.

While Sue, who suffers from fibromyalgia, says Tony has been her carer for years "in many ways" and she is now returning the favour.

Speaking to mark Carers Week – the annual campaign to highlight the challenges unpaid carers face – Tony said: "Sue is my rock. I can't imagine a world without her.

"We've had so many good times over the past six decades and I wouldn't change a minute of it.

"Facing a future with dementia is hard, but knowing I have Sue by my side makes it less scary.

"I look after her in many ways, and she takes care of me. We're very lucky to have one another and our wonderful children and grandchildren, too."

Crooner Tony is famed for hits such as (Is This The Way To) Amarillo – a smash the second time around when re-released for Comic Relief with comedian Peter Kay in 2005, also Avenues and Alleyways and Las Vegas.

He bravely went public with his dementia diagnosis last year. And Sue says she's "never been prouder" of how he's faced the degenerative condition – and revealed he now even jokes about it to fans while on stage.

Tony tells the crowds not to believe news stories about his health, before quipping: "Anyway, it's good to be back in Cleethorpes." Sue said: "It's great if you've got a sense of humour if you have a condition like this.

"He's always finding a funny side of everything, which drives us mad sometimes. He makes me laugh every single day. That's his way of saying sorry if he's ever made me upset.

"I don't feel as though I'm a carer. There may be a time when I have to take on that role, but not yet. We've always cared for each other.

Strong

"I had Covid four times and he nursed me. We work together."

Tony is still touring and recently recorded a country album in Nashville – We Still Shine – which was only kept off the top of the charts by megastar Taylor Swift.

He has just returned to his home in Lichfield, Staffs, from a tour of Germany. Sue is his constant companion on the road where her role is to ensure the father of three takes to the stage looking as dapper as ever. She added: "He always looks great. I do what I call the frocks. I make sure he looks incredibly smart, I still starch his shirts myself.

"I love the fact he looks so great up there. I look at Tony and think he'll go on forever. He doesn't suffer with dementia, he lives with it.

"I did say to him when he was diagnosed 'you don't have to worry about it, you've got us to worry about it'.

"But he's strong and we have to be strong with him."

Pop icon...with Lulu in 1972 to mark Amarillo hitting a million sales and with Sue and daughter Antonia in 1971

Sue first noticed a change in Tony when he began struggling to complete cryptic crosswords.

But she says an early diagnosis and his career as a musician have helped the star live as normal a life as possible.

Sue said: "It was still a shock. Tony was very calm, he said there's nothing I can change.

"He was given medicine straight away which did help.

"He goes to the shops and he does forget some things sometimes. He's been known to go four or five times a day, but he likes to go to the shops and have a chat with the people in there."

Tony is an ambassador for charity Music for Dementia, which aims to promote how music can help people with the condition.

Shortly after going public with his diagnosis, Tony released Thank You for Being a Friend to highlight work done by Britain's carers. The song, originally a hit for his old pal Andrew Gold, has replaced Amarillo as the show's climax.

Sue added: "Tony's doctor said you couldn't be in a better business, it feeds your brain.

"Sometimes we will see people with the condition who get very sad. We'll play them a piece of music from the past and we'll see that make an impact.

"I feel very proud that he can help people get diagnosed and enjoy music more."

Charity hit...with Peter Kay in 2005

DAILY EXPRESS

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Seeing brave Kate will be a tonic for the nation

IT will be wonderful to see the Princess of Wales with her husband and children at the King's official birthday parade today.

This will be her first public engagement since her deeply moving video message in March revealing that she is undergoing a course of preventative chemotherapy.

Many people might understandably be tempted to wonder what this tells us about her treatment and whether it marks the start of a full return to her public duties.

The Princess of Wales has wisely, and with enormous dignity and courage, chosen to speak with searing honesty about the progress she is making and how the battle against cancer is affecting her.

In a poignant message to the nation, she reveals that chemotherapy sometimes leaves her weak and tired. But when she has a good day she is determined to make the most of it.

Catherine speaks of her joy at being part of her children's schools and her happiness at resuming work from home.

She also expresses gratitude for the messages of support and encouragement from the public, which have provided enormous comfort to her and to the Prince of Wales.

While the Princess of Wales may make further public appearances, it is clear that she will not be returning to her usual busy schedule in the near future, however much she would like to.

She is being patient and ensuring that she has as long as required to heal. This is what we all want for her.

Many others who have undergone chemotherapy, and those who have cared for loved ones going through this treatment, will understand from firsthand experience how the Princess of Wales is feeling.

The powerful message to them is that they are not alone.

Arise, Sir Superhero

SOMETIMES the good guys win, and that includes Post Office campaigner Sir Alan Bates.

He led the battle to reveal injustice inflicted on sub-postmasters wrongly accused of having their fingers in the till.

The Post Office should be one of our most respected institutions but the details that have emerged about the behaviour of the organisation's bosses are shocking.

It was right that former chief executive Paula Vennells was forced by public pressure to hand back her CBE.

It's also right that Sir Alan has been honoured for the valiant campaign which he led and which, as he says, many people work hard to support.

The knighthood recognises that their crusade for justice wasn't just important to subpostmasters but to everyone who wants to live in a society where the innocent are not punished for crimes they didn't commit.

No wonder Farage has changed the election's course

Picture: DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA

'SUPER-COMMUNICATOR'...Farage has honed his skills over several elections

Patrick O'Flynn
Political commentator

HISTORIANS have two main schools of thought about why things turned out the way they did in any given era. One stresses how social and economic trends, including technological developments, made certain outcomes inevitable. The other focuses on the intervention of key charismatic individuals.

This latter approach is known as the "great man" theory of history and has fallen out of fashion in the modern era.

When the story of the 2024 British General Election is written up, the theory of trends will no doubt guide many authors: the huge migratory flows of the modern era setting off public anxiety about cherished cultural values being under threat, the failure of the current version of capitalism to improve living standards for nigh-on two decades, the interconnectedness of the modern world spreading a catastrophic pandemic at lightning-quick pace.

All these have counted against incumbents in recent elections across the free world. And they are counting against the Conservative party in Britain right now.

But great man theory will also have something to say about the way we cast our votes on July 4. Because all the evidence suggests that the unexpected intervention of one individual has been a game-changer.

That person is, of course, Nigel Farage. Since he performed a U-turn and leapt back into the electoral fray, taking over the leadership of the Reform party, the course of the contest has been altered.

EVERYTHING seemed primed for the Tories to be able to mount a gradual squeeze on a soft Reform vote share, taking them closer to Labour in the polls and perhaps even denying it an outright majority. But Farage has galvanised support for Reform to the extent that one poll on Thursday put it ahead of the Conservatives, while most have shown it catching up fast and its supporters deepening their resolve to stick with it.

This is not just a result of the fame and profile Farage has brought to his party but also of his campaigning skills honed over many previous elections. Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer are rookies compared with him, and it is showing.

One example of how Farage is playing the game of politics at a higher level concerns the totemic issue of immigration. He always knew a very large section of the British public shared his opposition to mass immigration. But in this campaign he has been able to draw more voters around to his point of view by advancing his argument in two phases.

First off, he points out that a "population explosion" has left the country unable to provide sufficient housing, GP appointments and other key services. Then he unveils incontrovertible evidence that the vast bulk of this has been due to uncontrolled mass immigration.

In this manner he's been able to win over extra voters who might previously just have thought, "There's Farage banging on about immigration again."

After being physically attacked twice on the campaign trail, Farage produced a stirring video defending freedom of expression and saying he would never surrender to the mob. Again, this was designed to broaden his appeal by articulating values – support for free speech and hostility to bully boys – that are shared by the great majority of the public.

When it came to the D-Day commemorations, he travelled to Normandy under his own steam, as he has done many times before, and stayed, mingling with veterans, for the best part of three days. Compare that with Sunak taking an early out then telling a TV journalist "it all just ran over".

Some pundits have sought to mock Farage for dressing like a squire on a grouse moor while he tours working-class constituencies. But all this is by design too: intended to make his brand more memorable by distinguishing him visually from boring establishment "suits" like Sunak and Starmer.

AT THE end of one TV debate, Farage pointedly said he would not need an autocue to make his closing remarks, as all the others had done, because he knew what he believed in. A lifetime of perfecting "one take" responses to interviewers, as well as a three-year stint on his own show at GB News, has propelled him into a category of super-communicators.

With two and a half weeks of campaigning left before polling day, who knows how far this extraordinary combination of attributes can take him? His early boast that Reform would gain more votes than the Tories was labelled a pipe dream. Few would bet with any great confidence against it happening now.

'Sunak and Starmer are rookies compared with him, and it shows'

Carole Malone

FUN, FEISTY AND FEARLESS

Email me at carole.malone@reachplc.com ● Follow me on Twitter @thecarolemalone

Keir's hypocrisy so riling

THERE'S much excitement about Euros 2024. Endless newspaper column inches devoted to half-naked pics of the hunky players, stories about the Wags, speculation about how we'll do. Well, let's not rely on speculation – but on fact.

And the fact is we've never won the Euros. The closest we got was in 2020 when we were runners up. FIFTY-SIX years before that – in 1968 – we scraped into third place.

Yes, we Brits are famous for our "Hope Over Experience" philosophy, but winning the Euros is a bit of a stretch. Unless we're talking about the Women's Team obviously, who DID win in 2022!

THREE cheers for Gavin and Stacy's Ruth Jones who says she's sick of politically correct, right-on people who describe her as "an actor".

"I always correct people's political correctness," she says. "And if I'm introduced as an actor, I say, 'No, I'm an actress.' And when they say, 'It's our policy to call you an actor,' I tell them I 'identify' as an actress."

That's the way, Ruth – make fools of the fools. The fight to protect women's rights is turning out to be a long and bloody one and we need gutsy women like her in the thick of it.

THE BBC is ramping up its bid to poach Alison Hammond permanently from ITV by offering her a travel show. Good. Can we please all chip in and make sure they get her. Because if she goes to the Beeb I'll never see her again (I don't watch the BBC).

I'm not sure why ITV regard her as one of their biggest stars. She's loud without substance, her cackling laugh grates, she can't interview for toffee and she's wrecked that once fantastic show For the Love of Dogs.

Come on BBC, up the ante and take her... please!

IF LIB Dem leader Ed Davey loses his Kingston & Surbiton seat there'll always be work for him at any Big Top – as the clown!

SIR KEIR Starmer – the crashing bore destined to lead this country for the next decade – damned himself to hell and back this week with his own words. When asked why he'd said in 2019 that Jeremy Corbyn would make a good PM and backed his hard-left policies, Starmer said he'd only done it because he knew Labour "wasn't going to win the election".

It's a lie. He didn't know. That's not me saying that, it's Jezza himself: "Well, he never said that to me at the time. And rewriting history is no help because it shows double standards. He was part of our campaign and he and I spoke together at events. I find what he's saying now quite sad."

Yes, and the rest of us think it stinks and speaks to exactly the kind of man Starmer is.

But drill down here and look at what the Labour leader's own words really say about him. They say he's a man who says one thing and means another, a man whose words cannot be trusted and who will say what's necessary when it's advantageous to him.

And, at the time, it WAS advantageous for him to suck up to Corbyn, who he knew was anti-Israel and a friend of Hamas. Yet still he praised him publicly because many believed Corbyn was destined to be our next PM, and Slippery wanted to protect his cabinet position.

We've all known for years that Starmer changes his mind and his policies as often as he changes his underwear, but this week was proof positive.

He publicly backed a man whose policies he said he was 100 per cent behind yet now he says those policies were so bad he's had to change the whole ethos of the party.

So what kind of a man does this make him – a cowardly one who says one thing yet does another. In short, a man who can't be trusted. It's also the man who this week described his five-year stint as Director of Public Prosecutions as a job where he earned a "reasonable" salary. Well, let's look at this "son of a toolmaker's" idea of reasonable.

Back in 2008, when he got the job, he was on £200,000 a year. His expenses bill for first-class flights, trains and top-class hotels was £250,000 (his successor's travel bill was a third of that). And he accrued £336,000 in pension benefits.

He also had a chauffeur-driven car that cost taxpayers £161,273, even though he lived just four miles from the Crown Prosecution Service HQ.

Still Labour had the brass neck to accuse the Tories of overseeing "lavish spending on hotels, hospitality and other costs using taxpayer-funded debit cards". Yet its own leader was very happy to dip his own snout into the public trough when he was DPP.

And just to confirm Starmer's hypocrisy in banging on about how he understands people who struggle to pay bills, we learn from his own entry in the Register of Members' Interests that multi-millionaire Labour peer Waheed Ali gave him £20,000 to pimp up his election wardrobe – £16,200 for "work clothes" and £2,485 for "multiple pairs of glasses".

Yep, this is the son of a humble toolmaker...

I'M TELLING you this because it all speaks to Starmer's hypocrisy, his double standards and what amounts to a lack of integrity. He rails at "posh" Tories for doing precisely what he's done himself, which renders his "Man of the People" act farcical. What he said this week shows he'll do and say whatever it takes to get the keys to No10.

The tax rises in his own manifesto – despite his promise not to raise them – total £8.5billion, which will take the UK's total tax burden to the highest level in history, higher than anything the Tories imposed.

So if anyone's going to be using public money – your money – like a cash machine, it's Slippery Starmer.

Amanda's no cover girl...

THE headline said: "Amanda Holden has everything covered up as she prepares to launch a new TV show about adultery."

I had to read it again because I don't think there's been an occasion in the last 20 years that Ms Holden has had everything covered up. In fact she tries to get away with covering up as little as possible. That said – if I had a body like hers I'd have it on permanent show too.

THE GLOSS is fast wearing off the BBC's new Today presenter, Emma Barnett. She was interviewing David Cameron who, fed up of her constant interruptions, said: "You've obviously been to the John Humphrys' school of never-ending interruptions."

To which Barnett snapped back: "I went to my own school." And she's right, comparing her in any way to the great John Humphrys is an insult to Humphrys who, in terms of interview skills, knocks spots off her.

The big difference between them is Humphrys never believed his opinions were more important than his guests. Barnett does...

ITV could be culling some of its Loose Women "stars". Good. They need women with strong opinions – like those of my great pal Jane Moore. Currently, lots of twittery, not very bright ladies are there for reasons that have nothing to do with their opinions or intelligence. And when did Loose Women bosses decide controversial opinions were something all women must be protected from? This desperation not to offend is patronising. It's why people are losing interest and ratings are falling.

MARRIAGE ADVICE TO McILROY COULD BE A STROKE OF GENIUS... FOR HIS TEAM

GOLFER Rory McIlroy's advisors (financial or emotional?) have told him to give his marriage to the beautiful Erica Stoll another six months.

McIlroy, who filed for divorce four weeks ago, said: "Erica and I have realised that our best future was as a family, together." How very unromantic. No "we love each other madly" or "we realised we'd made a terrible mistake". Just this flat, perfunctory statement.

If I was Erica, I'd be running for the hills because this marriage isn't going to last.

Could it be that McIlroy's advisors were telling him to patch things up because they know he's chippy, a bit difficult and friends say "he can't be on his own for five minutes"? And let's not forget it's the US Open this week and McIlroy has a good chance of winning. But then maybe, if he'd been an emotional wreck after his marriage break-up, he might lose the tournament, the $170,000 prize money and a big chunk in alimony.

His "advisors" wouldn't want that!

Review...Ravinder Naga

Horizon law could clear son over stolen £35k

By **Nick Forbes**

A SUB-postmistress's son who stole £35,000 to save her from jail could be exonerated by new laws covering those wrongly convicted in the Horizon scandal, a court heard yesterday.

Ravinder Naga requested a review of his conviction and sentence following his 2010 guilty plea to taking money from the post office in Greenock, Inverclyde.

Judge Lady Dorrian, at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday, asked barristers if they had decided whether he was covered by the Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Act, which came into effect that day.

Brian Gill KC, for the Crown, indicated it would be a matter for ministers to determine.

Judge Lady Dorrian asked him: "It may be covered by the new legislation?" He replied: "It may be." She ordered an appeal hearing to start on September 26.

Mr Naga had to do community service and repay the money as part of his sentence.

Teen pair on stab rap

By **Matthew Cooper**

A BOY of 13 and a 17-year-old youth have denied murdering 15-year-old Isaac Brown who was stabbed near a shopping centre in April.

Isaac died at the scene after the attack in West Bromwich, West Mids.

The two accused, both from the Smethwick area but who cannot be named due to their age, denied murder, robbery and possessing a bladed article at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday.

They must appear at the same court for a further pre-trial hearing on September 13 and were told their case would be heard before a High Court judge.

Pictures: SEFA KARACAN/GETTY, AFP

Putin's 'peace' plan...surrender occupied regions and drop plan to join Nato

Dictating terms...the Russian leader in Moscow yesterday

By **Emily Braeger**

VLADIMIR Putin has promised an immediate ceasefire and to begin peace talks – but only if Kyiv withdraws troops from the four occupied Ukrainian regions and ditches plans to join Nato.

The Russian leader said he would be ready for negotiations "tomorrow" if Ukrainian troops left the Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the country gave up its plans to join the security alliance.

Unsurprisingly, Kyiv, Nato and the Pentagon dismissed Putin's "peace" plan yesterday.

Sham

And an adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky called it a "complete sham".

Putin said: "Conditions are very simple. As soon as Kyiv say they're ready for such a decision and start the real withdrawal of forces from these regions and officially declare rejection of plans to join Nato, from our side, immediately, literally the same minute, will come an order to stop the fire and start negotiations.

"We will do it immediately. Obviously, we will guarantee the uninterrupted and safe withdrawal of Ukrainian forces."

Stoic... Zelensky. Above, a recent strike on Luhansk

Putin also claimed his army's advance towards Kyiv in 2022 had been aimed at forcing Ukraine to agree to a peace deal. He also said there was no intention of storming Kyiv.

His remarks were a rare occasion in which he clearly laid out his conditions for ending the war in Ukraine but he did not include any new demands.

Mr Zelensky has repeatedly vowed to liberate all occupied regions and says invading forces must leave his country as a condition for any peace deal.

Russia does not fully control any of the four regions it illegally annexed in 2022 but Putin said Kyiv should withdraw from them entirely and essentially cede them to Moscow within their administrative borders.

In Zaporizhzhia in the south east, Russia does not control the region's namesake administrative capital of 700,000 people.

Failed

And in neighbouring Kherson, Moscow withdrew from the biggest city and capital of the same name in November 2022.

Meanwhile, dozens of Russian soldiers have surrendered to Ukraine troops after a failed raid on a chemical factory in the eastern town of Vovchansk, Kharkiv.

Ukraine's 3rd Assault Brigade released a video from the frontlines showing its troops taking at least 24 Russians as prisoners of war.

Briton set for trial on 'Russia spy' charge

Remanded in custody...Phillips, 64

A BRITON accused of trying to disclose an MP's personal details to help Russia is set to stand trial next year.

Howard Phillips, 64, who appeared at the Old Bailey via video-link from Wormwood Scrubs Prison yesterday, allegedly applied for a UK Border Force job while acting for the Kremlin, the court heard.

He is accused of setting up a mobile phone to pass on information, seeking "security clearance" and offering "logistical support".

Phillips, of Harlow, Essex, is charged under the National

By **Paul Jeeves**

Security Act 2023 with acquiring and disclosing personal contact details of an MP, intending that conduct to materially assist a foreign intelligence service in carrying out UK-related activities.

Searches

He has not yet entered a plea.

Mr Justice Jeremy Baker remanded him in custody until a plea hearing on October 25.

He said the trial would take place at Winchester Crown Court on February 10. Phillips was arrested in Central London on Thursday, May 16.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "As part of the investigation, which is being led by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, officers also searched an address in the Hertfordshire area and an address in the Essex area.

"Both searches are now complete.

"The arrest is not connected to any other recent charges or investigations linked to NSA offences and there is not believed to be any threat to the wider public in connection with this matter."

Time for a cull on XL killer dogs

J LETHAL attacks by XL bully dogs continue, remorselessly, relentlessly, inevitably. Did anyone seriously think they wouldn't, even after UK owners were compelled by law to register their animals, neuter them, muzzle them in public, etc? The deaths – horrible, mauling, protracted, agonising deaths – just mount up.

Devoted bully dog owners are vociferous in defence of their breed of choice. Owners such as Nicole Morey, savaged to death in Ireland by two XL bullies on her 23rd birthday. Yes, her 23rd. She was absurdly young. Her whole life before her. And now she's gone, thanks to her devotion to her "sons", as she referred to her two dogs.

Nicole had been out celebrating her birthday before she was attacked and died on returning home, shortly before midnight. Paramedics treated her at the scene but Nicole succumbed to her injuries.

Video footage taken before the deadly attack shows Nicole dancing and laughing with one of her two dogs in her home with the caption reading "my boy".

In the soundtrack, she says she does not "give a ****" if other people think the creature appears aggressive. "I don't give a **** if you don't like the look of him, and I certainly don't give a **** if you think the breed should be banned," she adds.

"This is my son, and I don't give a **** if you think he looks aggressive."

Nicole's body was taken to a nearby hospital for a post-mortem examination. Just 23. The utter waste of it.

Now there are calls for Ireland to follow the UK and place bans on the XL breed – much good that would do owners such as Nicole.

Because these creatures can be unpredictable and when they "blow", their sheer strength and power make for appalling consequences. Nicole, according to a grand-uncle, opened her front door after arriving home when one of her "sons" "jumped out on top of her and attacked her. By the time the Gardai got there, they [the dogs] were mauling her. The Gardai couldn't get them off her. They had to shoot the dog to get him off."

I shrink at the thought of simply putting down all remaining XL bully dogs before the breed simply dies out here. But does anyone have an alternative?

R WAS there ever anything uglier and naffer-looking imposed on public life than the 1980s BT phone box? It wasn't just that those ghastly grey iron-and-glass rectangles looked unutterably drab and inferior when compared to their somehow comforting and distinctive pillar-box red predecessors. Even if that earlier, elegant, classic design had never been, the monstrosities dumped on us between 1985 and 1996 would always have looked horrible.

So why on earth is something calling itself The Twentieth Century Society trying to secure listed status for three of these aberrations (oh-so-poetically known as the KX100 Kiosk) before they are removed from the streets? Listen to this. The society actually describes them as: "Underappreciated... the final flourish of design-led telecommunications infrastructure in the public realm."

Ugh! Even the language is as unlovely as the objects it so clunkily describes. Not to mention being almost ironically inaccurate.

"FINAL flourish." Uhh? Those awful things? A flowery "flourish"? More like a bouquet of barbed wire.

Ah well. Perhaps it doesn't matter. Phone boxes – the beloved red ones; the despised grey ones – are almost extinct anyway. In the mid-1990s there were more than 100,000 public payphones. Now fewer than 20,000 remain and hundreds are carted away each year. Dialling dinosaurs.

Richard&Judy

BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM REFLECT ON THE WEEK'S EVENTS EVERY SATURDAY IN YOUR DAILY EXPRESS

Pictures: GETTY; REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

R **I WAS on a TV programme this week with the presenter and bestselling author Laura Whitmore. What a breath of fresh air she is. So many of her generation of TV hosts take themselves SO seriously. Laura, by contrast, is self-deprecating, funny, open and warm. The show we were on together (no spoilers, I'm afraid, it'll be broadcast later this year) benefited hugely from her presence. I worked with her several years ago in the Australian jungle, commentating on I'm A Celebrity... and she's as down to earth now as she was back then. Genuine people don't change, they don't need to.**

Sad Beeb verification affectation

R REGULAR readers of this column will know by now what I think of BBC Verify. I believe that it's an absurd journalistic indulgence and affectation. Why do we need a huge separate team (funded of course by us, the licence fee payers) to "verify" just-broadcast reports? Shouldn't those reports be accurate in the first place? Why do they have to be checked all over again, at considerable cost? Doesn't the BBC trust its own journalists and newsrooms to get the story straight first time of telling?

If I were a BBC reporter out in the field and the report I'd just filed for the News At Six or News At 10 was passed over to a bunch of desk-bound nit-pickers poring over their laptops, I'd be pretty hacked off. What would it say about my professionalism, my reliability?

Indeed, imagine if this newspaper – or any newspaper, come to that – concluded a news article with the injunction: "Now turn to Verification, page 25, to see if we got this one right." It's plain bonkers. News editors, sub-editors and sometimes lawyers, are paid to check the accuracy of stories before they are published or broadcast. BBC Verify is an implicit accusation that their own news teams aren't up to the job.

CENTRE OF ATTENTION: The BBC should trust its journalists and viewers

Meanwhile, as former diplomat and Tory government adviser Lord David Frost observed this week, BBC Verify is now straying into areas it has absolutely no business sticking its nose into. For example, it (with all due po-faced pomposity) "fact-checked" last week's live seven-sided TV election debate.

Uhh?

Most of that lively exchange consisted of legitimate opinion and fair comment. You can't fact-check open debate, any more than you can fact-check a newspaper's leading editorial. Free speech and fair comment is, by definition, subjective opinion. Not dry, objective analysis. We, the viewers and readers, know the difference. As Frost acutely observes: "The whole BBC Verify programme is based on a fallacy. On most political issues not only is there simply no authoritative interpretation of the facts… the only way to reach an outcome is to have free debate, allow all to make their case, and see who wins the argument.

"BBC Verify should let people make their own minds up. But surely that is what the BBC should be doing anyway. Why do we need BBC Verify at all? Maybe we don't."

There's no "maybe" about it, Lord Frost. We don't. BBC news-gatherers have managed very well for almost a century without it. So have we.

Or have we? Were we being played for suckers all along? Because the unavoidable conclusion about the advent of BBC Verify is that for decades we've been fed "un-verified", untrustworthy, inaccurate reports. Only now can we start trusting the BBC news machine! Thank you, Verify!

This is self-evident nonsense. So memo to BBC News: stop patronising us and leave us alone – all of us: your reporters telling their stories; we viewers and listeners perfectly capable of interpreting them. Between us we'll do the verifying, thanks. Butt out.

J **OUR hearts ache for Dr Clare Bailey Mosley, wife – now widow – of the wonderful Dr Michael Mosley, both right. What a terrible, terrible five days she and their children had to endure during the increasingly baffled, frustrated search for him.**

How stressful it must have been to see the sun go down after another day without news, and to see it rise again to herald another one of dwindling hope.

Now at least she has some answers, some closure, after her husband's body was found, tantalisingly close to safety, on the Greek island of Symi.

But, like Richard and I, the couple were married for almost 40 years. How she must be suffering. My heart and prayers go out to her.

TREMBLING TAYLOR'S G-LOVE STORY AFTER SWIFT COSTUME CHANGE

J **TAYLOR Swift should have read her Mark Twain before embarking on her UK tour in a British June. To slightly misquote him: "If you like the weather there, just you wait a few minutes!"**

Contemporary US commentator Mouloud Benzadi says about our weather: "In Britain, the biggest mistake you can make about it is looking at the sky out of your window. It can switch from blue skies to a downpour in the blink of an eye… all four seasons in just one day!"

It was certainly a cruel, cruel summer, or the start to one, when Taylor kicked off the UK leg of her tour in Scotland. Temperatures were OK as she sashayed onstage in Edinburgh last Saturday night but they plummeted so fast she had to call a halt while she put on a pair of warming gloves. That must be a first at a UK pop/rock concert. I don't recall Mick Jagger reaching for his mittens anytime he's been on a British stage.

But Taylor ploughed on regardless, bless her. Proving that you have to be tough to tour here. Even in our midsummer.

Scotland the rave...as Euros begin with party

By **Stephen Beech**

FOOTBALL fever broke out among hordes of England and Scotland fans last night as the Euros kicked off.

Tens of thousands of Scots, many without tickets, partied in Munich before their team lost 5-1 to Germany in the first match of the tournament.

The kilted Tartan Army led by bagpipers had paraded through the city before the game, filling Marienplatz.

Among them was Glasgow-born ITV host Lorraine Kelly complete with blue tartan dress and Glengarry hat.

Other travelling fans had begun queuing outside the city's Olympiapark fan zone from 11am for Scotland's second appearance at a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup in France.

England fans also poured into Germany.

Favourites

Gareth Southgate's Three Lions take on Serbia in Gelsenkirchen tomorrow night and millions are likely to watch live on BBC, with some bookmakers making England favourites to win the trophy.

Euro 2024 is tipped to generate more than £50billion in global betting turnover.

In England fans decorated their homes with St George's flags and bunting ahead of watching tomorrow's game in their local. Among publicans preparing for kick-off was Norman Scott who has spent months decorating Dougie's Tavern in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, adding the flags of all 24 countries taking part.

A survey shows that nearly half of British consumers (46%) plan to watch the Euros, with 40% of those preparing to catch the matches in pubs and bars.

Violetta Njunina, client director at data and insight consultancy CGA which conducted the research, said: "Euro 2024 brings some great opportunities for pubs, bars and drinks suppliers.

"Especially as this will be the first major football tournament that is free from Covid-19 restrictions for six years."

She added: "But it's important to remember that while many consumers are eager to watch the Euros, many are still affected by the cost-of-living crisis while others aren't interested. For all venues, balancing the needs of these very different consumer groups – and finding the right formula of value and atmosphere to tempt sports fans out of their home – will be crucial."

CGA's trading data shows that match days at the last Euros and World Cup triggered big increases in takings for pubs and bars.

Last night's game in Munich was the first of 51 to be played over the next month, with some 2.7 million fans expected to watch at 10 grounds around Germany.

The final takes place at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on Sunday, July 14.

Toast with host ...ITV's Lorraine Kelly joins Scots fans in Munich

'This England team

EXCLUSIVE
By **Kat Hopps**

PETER Crouch believes the current England squad could be the "greatest we've ever had" – and wishes he could play for them.

The former striker, capped 42 times, admitted: "I saw the players take a picture on the way to Germany – I do miss that, I am envious. A part of me thinks these boys are so lucky and I wish I was back there."

Crouch scored 22 goals in two World Cups and one Euros between 2005 and 2010 and played alongside Wayne Rooney, David Beckham and Steven Gerrard. But he reckons the Euro 2024 squad, kicking off their campaign against Serbia tomorrow, "gel better and almost feel like a club side" and have the potential to dominate international competitions for years.

He added: "I would put this team up with the greatest we've ever had, but they're not in that conversation until they win something. If they do, they'll far succeed any generation I played with and we'll have to compare them with the 1966 team."

Crouch, 43, retired in 2019. He launched a successful career in podcasting and writing, and enjoys a happy home life with model wife Abbey Clancy and their four children. He has partnered with breakfast food brand Alpro to demonstrate a series of celeb-inspired extreme morning routines from early rises to taking a 20-minute ice bath. He said: "I've learned getting up at 2.30am is not the future. I quite enjoyed the exercise and other things.

"I've done ice baths all my life as a footballer and know their benefits."

Like everyone, the former Tottenham and Liverpool star will be glued to the box for the next month. And it's given him ideas of what he would do if he was in manager

Pictures: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER, ANDY COMMINS, BRADLEY COLLYER/PA

No flagging... Dougie's Tavern; left, Eddie Collis in West London

Roarsome...fans party in Marienplatz ahead of opening ceremony, top

is among best ever'

Gareth Southgate's position, who indicated he might stand down if England don't win.

Crouch said: "I see the talent coming through. We have the opportunity to create something that no one's done by consistently winning in multiple tournaments. It's not just the team now, it's the team coming up. I speak to the under-21 managers.

"They're so confident that the players coming through are even better than the ones we see today. It's a really exciting time to be an England manager and I don't know how you walk away from that through choice."

For two decades, Crouch was consumed by football but that all changed the year before his retirement when he launched That Peter Crouch Podcast.

"I was institutionalised if you like," he says. "I did my coaching badges. I thought I might stay in it but then I did a book and podcast and they went bang."

Banter

He started his podcast to promote his book, How To Be A Footballer, published in 2019 to coincide with his retirement. Within a year, thanks to his candid chat and witty banter, he had scored 12 million listeners.

It's now one of the BBC's biggest podcasts and has featured everyone from Prince William to Louis Theroux and Idris Elba. Crouch was incredibly open from the first broadcast, speaking about his insecurities and the taunts he faced about his 6ft 7in frame.

He said: "Because I was so naive, I didn't think anyone was listening. I was talking so honestly about football and the life that I've led. I would be more guarded in an interview but because I was in a pub having laughs, it felt like I was with my mates."

He and Abbey launched a joint podcast, The Therapy Crouch, last year. In it, they poke fun at one another and discuss the ups and downs of married life.

SPORT: BACK PAGE

Crouch...in England game and inset, now

Cheers...time for beers

Beer we go...shops ready for thirst aid

By **Josie Clarke**

SUPERMARKETS are ready for one of their busiest periods of the year as football fans stock the fridge to watch the Euros from home.

Tesco said it expected to sell 33 million packs of beer and cider over the coming month.

But it also believes it will sell 5.5 million bottles and cans of "no" and "low" alcohol options – a record for a major football event.

The chain added: "While these sales predictions are estimates, we know from previous tournaments when the sun shines demand can go through the roof."

Asda said it expects to sell 14 million units of Budweiser over the coming four weeks and more than 25,000 large-screen, high-definition TVs. While M&S said customers were buying five times as much Belgian lager as British and sales of dips and "picky bits" were up 15% ahead of the first matches.

Tax row brewing

By **Emily Braeger**

MORE than 80 pub groups and brewers have urged ministers to slash beer duty as Britons sink about 300 million pints during the Euros – and fork out £180million in tax.

They say an urgent cut is a "first step" towards bringing the UK in line with the European average.

Ministers have frozen alcohol duty since 2020.

But drinkers pay higher beer tax than any EU country in the tournament and the second highest in the bloc as a whole, the TaxPayers' Alliance says.

Star...denies allegations

‘Concerns’ on Brand not chased

By **Paul Jeeves**

INFORMAL concerns raised about Russell Brand while he hosted Big Brother spin-off programmes were “not properly escalated or adequately addressed”, according to a probe.

The star, 49, fronted the shows on Channel 4 between 2004 and 2008.

Law firm Lewis Silkin LLP, asked by production company Banijay to conduct an inquiry, said: “No formal complaints were made. There were however concerns raised informally. These were not properly escalated or adequately addressed.”

Brand was accused by C4’s Dispatches show last year of rape, assault and emotional abuse. He denies all allegations.

Shock...Daniel Radcliffe

Sandwich drama hits Dan’s play

By **Tara Fair**

DANIEL Radcliffe was stunned as a member of the audience at his West End play unwrapped and ate a foot-long sandwich – then slept through the rest of the first act.

The Harry Potter star said the man tore off its tinfoil in an “incredibly complicated” speech by his co-star Josh McGuire in Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead at the Old Vic in London.

But Radcliffe, 34, told the Awards Chatter podcast the theatregoer then became “the most attentive audience member” in the second act of Sir Tom Stoppard’s absurdist tragicomedy.

He added of the 2017 surprise: “He jumped up at the end...clapped”.

Picture: WESSEX NEWS AGENCY

Holidaymakers are rattled by a snake

Coil of the wild...snake is spotted by a road before being rescued

By **Frances Millar**

IT was enough to give anyone a hisssy fit when a huge snake was found outside a holiday park.

The 14ft-long Burmese python is native to Burma, India and South East Asia. It is believed to have been dumped by its unscrupulous owner at Monkton Wyld, near Charmouth, Dorset.

Guests raised the alarm and staff alerted the RSPCA, police and a local reptile farm. Four men joined forces to rescue the 110lb “cold and placid” female. One of them put a towel over its head and a hand over its jaws while two others lifted it up and placed it in a duvet being held by the fourth man.

They put the snake in the back of a van and took it to reptile specialists Phelsuma Farm in Ilton, Somerset.

Martin Ballam, one of the rescuers, was driving to pick his daughter up from school when he saw people on the roadside. He said: “I thought somebody had hit a deer but when I wound down the window I saw this giant snake. I didn’t know if it was going to be friendly or aggressive.”

Simon Prentice, of Phelsuma Farm, has launched an appeal to build a 12ft enclosure. He said: “For now she is being kept in the largest room we have.”

Footballer claims friend injured him to take team spot

By **Paul Keogh**

A FORMER Liverpool FC youth star is suing for more than £200,000 after claiming a rival teammate nobbled him to stop him making the first team.

Daniel Cleary was 19 when he says he was hurt by a dangerous “over the top, studs-up” tackle by fellow youth team defender Tom Brewitt in 2015.

Both had been hoping to make first-team debuts for Jurgen Klopp’s side in an FA Cup game during an injury crisis and Cleary says his former pal tried to put him out of contention.

Cleary launched his damages claim after his former team-mate boasted his tackle put Cleary on crutches on the Football Journeys podcast.

Brewitt, 27, spoke of the injury crisis before the Exeter City match which made them competitors for a spot. He said: “It was me or him, so I went after him in training. Before Christmas and between Christmas and new year, I put myself next to him in possession games and games and I just kicked him.

> **‘It was him or me so I went after him. He was on crutches’**

“I wasn’t trying to hurt him badly, but I was trying to hurt him enough so he was out of the way and I would play. I did it on purpose. I’m not incredibly proud of it and I’m not ashamed either. It was me or him and I was choosing me.

“He was on crutches for the next weeks and it was sort of like...not mission accomplished, I didn’t really want to hurt him, I just needed him out of the way for this game.”

Brewitt was not selected for the match and is now clubless. Neither played a competitive match for Liverpool and Cleary, 28, is now suing the club and his former team-mate over the loss of a top career. Cleary was left with continued hypersensitivity and fear of sustaining a direct injury to the left leg, his lawyers say. The injury resulted in an altered running gait, leading to further injuries and depression, which have restricted his career, he claims.

After leaving Liverpool Cleary joined Birmingham, before spells at St Johnstone and Dundalk FC. He is now at Shamrock Rovers in Ireland.

He is claiming more than £200,000 damages from Liverpool and Brewitt, who was recently released by League Two Swindon Town. Liverpool and player deny liability at the High Court, with the Reds insisting their players are taught to play to the rules. Cleary’s barrister Satinder Hunjan KC said the Brewitt tackle left his client fearing he “had broken his leg.”

Cleary is alleging negligence and assault and battery against Brewitt as well as blaming Liverpool for not protecting him. The club’s barrister Pippa Manby accepted it is vicariously liable for Brewitt’s actions, but denied anything wrong with the challenge.

The club and Mr Brewitt say the injury had no real impact on Mr Cleary who was training again two weeks after. A full trial is due later.

Club rivals...Cleary and Brewitt, inset

JURGEN’S RETURN TO ANFIELD IS TAYLOR MADE

By **Emily Braeger**

FORMER Liverpool FC boss Jurgen Klopp returned to his beloved Anfield – but this time to watch superstar Taylor Swift in action.

Klopp had bid an emotional farewell when he stepped down as manager of the Premier League team.

The 56-year-old, posing in a pink cowgirl hat, said in an Instagram video: “So back in Liverpool and now it’s Taylor time.”

Taylor, 34, *right*, played the first of three shows at Anfield on Thursday for her record-breaking Eras Tour before moving on to Cardiff, London and Dublin. Klopp said: “First time going to Anfield not for a football game but in the stands watching Taylor Swift.

“So, yeah, I’m not Taylor made obviously but Taylor-ready. Let’s go to Anfield and have a good night or a great night would be cool. ”

He captioned the post: “Going back to a place I know All Too Well”, referencing Swift’s 2021 hit song, adding: “I guess I am officially a Swiftie.” He watched from the VIP section with wife Ulla Sandrock, who he said bought the tickets.

Hat’s the way...Klopp dons cowgirl headgear for show

18+. GB Only. Budweiser Beer 4.5% vol., 15 x 300ml, £7.49 £1.66/L in England (excludes Wales), £10.19 £2.26/L in Wales. Coca Cola Zero, 1.25L, 7.9p/100ml. Brewdog Hazy Jane Guava 5% vol., 440ml, £4.52/L. Brewdog Wingman Session IPA 4.3% vol., 12 x 330ml £3.03/L. Doritos Tangy Cheese, 180g, 82.8p/100g. Doritos Chilli Heatwave, 180g, 82.8p/100g. Selected stores. Subject to availability. bedrinkaware.co.uk for the facts. Price correct 14.06.24.

Frantic...Emma Corr with Harriet, nine, who was on the mend

'THIS SHORTAGE IS A BIG WORRY FOR PARENTS'

MUM Emma Corr visited her pharmacy this week for her nine-year-old daughter's Creon tablets but left horrified – as they had none.

Now Emma, 43, fears Harriet's health could decline, and her CF dominate, if she cannot source the Creon she needs with each meal.

Three times since 2019 Harriet has starred on Daily Express front pages fighting to get lifesaving CF drug Kaftrio on the NHS.

But after two years of it boosting Harriet's health, Emma worries that being forced to reduce her daughter's Creon with meals could reverse that good work.

Emma, of Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, said: "Harriet needs about 10-15 Creon tablets every day. But we're now unable to find it. We've been scouring our house to see if we've left any pots of Creon lying about – that's how desperate we're getting.

"Not only does Creon help Harriet absorb the nutrients and fats in her food but it enables her CF drug Kaftrio to work properly too.

"If we have to reduce the fats in her diet not only will she lose weight but it could mean her Kaftrio does not fully work either.

"It is a big worry and stress for parents if we can't get our hands on this basic medication which keeps her healthy."

Added stress... Lola Rose, 15, with mum Carina

'TO WORRY ABOUT THIS DURING EXAMS IS AWFUL'

ANXIOUS Carina Rose fears the Creon crisis could force CF sufferers like her teenage daughter to reduce their calories – to stretch out their tablets.

Lola Rose, 15, is taking wonder drug Kaftrio, which alleviates the worst symptoms of the genetic disease but it must be taken with fatty meals.

And to properly digest and absorb fats and nutrients, Lola needs Creon – yet her family have found it harder to track the dwindling supplies down.

But Lola, from Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, is trying to concentrate on her exams. Mother-of-three Carina, 42, said family members like her husband Daniel, 47, are doing two-hour round trips to pharmacies in and around Essex to source a few pots of Creon each week.

In the last six weeks they have only managed to be prescribed three pots – equivalent to 300 tablets – yet she needs 30 tablets a day to absorb the nutrients in all her meals and snacks.

Carina said: "Lola never complains, she's a battler and inspires me. But to be worrying about this when she has her GCSEs is awful."

Gran Patricia Rose added: "Lola can't relax or go to bed without thinking if she has a pot of Creon for the next day."

CF patients' anguish as vital drugs dry up

EXCLUSIVE
By **Chris Riches**

TERRIFIED cystic fibrosis patients have told of their fears as supplies of their life-saving medication are dwindling or gone.

And some CF sufferers are being advised to drop their daily dose of vital pancreatic enzyme replacement called Creon, with production problems possibly lasting until 2026.

As well as harming lungs, CF causes sticky mucus to clog up the pancreas, stopping it releasing enzymes the body needs to digest fats, proteins and starches. So to alleviate this, many of the UK's 11,600 sufferers take Creon.

Yet due to a recent "constrained supply" crisis by Creon makers Viatris – they blame on German manufacturer Abbott – UK pharmacies, hospitals and clinicians are finding Creon hard to get.

Many pharmacies are restricting prescriptions to just two-weeks' worth of tablets – meaning sufferers are constantly thinking about how to get the next batch.

Daily Express writer Carlie Pleasant, 34, of Sittingbourne, Kent, struggles to maintain her weight with her CF – so swapping high-calorie meals for less fat-based ones could see her dangerously shed pounds.

The mum-of-one said: "Creon is an essential enzyme I need to digest. My pancreas is so damaged from CF it cannot break down any fats or oils in my foods and drinks.

"Not taking Creon results in severe diarrhoea leading to dehydration, malnourishment and weight loss. I put a repeat prescription in for Creon in to the chemist in January and still have not had any medication delivered.

"I've spent hours ringing pharmacies around the county trying to source the enzymes but have had no luck.

"My CF team say it's vital I keep up daily intake of food and high fat diet to keep me healthy and to avoid hospital stays. Without Creon it will be impossible.

"The supply I have is running low and with no end to this shortage in sight I am concerned, not only for me but for everyone with CF and other illnesses that require Creon."

Around 80% of UK CF patients take Kaftrio – described as being "like a cure" for many of the worst symptoms. But it only works when taken with a high-calorie meal with fats – and that needs Creon to digest it.

When a CF suffer reduces fats in their diet they can easily lose weight, which can then weaken the body and make them more prone to lung bugs, infections and falling gravely ill.

Some NHS centres have written to CF patients suggesting swapping fatty meals for low-fat ones – which require fewer Creon tablets.

Mother-of-three Chantelle Atarinejad, 35, and partner Bekim Bashkurti, 39, of Harpenden, Herts, have had to drive for an hour into London to source Creon for their son Rezart, 10.

Chantelle said: "If he didn't have Creon he would lose weight fast and that would cause other serious issues such as infections."

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "We are aware of supply issues affecting Creon and are working with the manufacturer to help resolve them."

WHY THIS TREATMENT IS SO IMPORTANT

By **Chris Riches**

CREON is the brand name for US drug firm Viatris' pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy.

It helps cystic fibrosis sufferers and pancreas-failing patients digest the fats, starches and protein in food.

Factories, in this case Viatris' third-party drug maker Abbott in Germany, use enzymes sourced from pigs to make their PERT products, which are on the World Health Organisation's List of Essential Medicines. Patients taking Kaftrio – and CF drugs like Orkambi and Symkevi – need to the take the medications with a high-fat meal, so the body can properly absorb it.

And to digest high-fat meals, CF patients also need Creon.

Now patients fear a lack of Creon in Europe could harm their long-term health.

Vital medicine...Creon

WELCOME TO THE

As her record-breaking, economy-boosting Eras tour moves the earth, quite literally, for British fans, Taylor Swift's biographer tells the extraordinary story of her rise from wannabe stock broker to the biggest thing in music...

EXCLUSIVE
By **Caroline Sullivan**

TAYLOR Swift's first ambition was to be a stockbroker. In that sense, she was simply a chip off the old block. Her father Scott and mum Andrea both have financial backgrounds, and Taylor grew up hearing her dad talk about his job in Merrill Lynch's wealth management division. Other third-graders at Wyndcroft School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, wanted to be ballerinas or baseball players but Taylor was more fascinated by investments and bonds.

She could hardly help it – Scott was so immersed in his career that when he left the house, instead of saying "Bye-bye" it would be "Buy bonds". It rubbed off on his daughter who once said: "I just thought, I can broke stocks."

If she hadn't decided her talents lay elsewhere, she might be managing a hedge fund today. Lucky us: the stock market's loss is pop music's gain. But music has been just as lucrative. It's no exaggeration to say she's one of pop's great artists – and one of its richest.

Last October, Forbes magazine officially declared her a billionaire, estimating her wealth at $1.1billion. Taylor's not the first musician to bank a billion – Paul McCartney, Rihanna and Jay-Z got there before her – but she's the first to earn it from music alone, as opposed to side interests such as Rihanna's Fenty Beauty company.

Her ongoing Eras tour, launched in Glendale, California, in March 2023 and currently wowing the UK, should add another billion to her fortune by the time it finishes in Vancouver on December 8, five days before her 35th birthday.

That will make it the highest grossing concert tour in history – and she's earning every penny. Onstage for three hours a night, she sings 46 songs, drawing from every one of her 11 albums (or "eras") except, for reasons unexplained, her self-titled 2006 debut.

If you haven't been able to get tickets there's a handy concert film to show you what you've been missing. Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour, was released last October, and has taken $267million (£210m) – the highest gross of any concert film in history. (If you really can't get enough, a different cut of the film, titled The Eras Tour: Taylor's Version, is streaming on Disney +).

Artistically, her achievements are almost as boggling.

MAKING GRAMMY HISTORY: Taylor, pictured in 2021, has won Album of the Year four times

HER albums, from the debut to this year's The Tortured Poets Department, contain solid-gold classics such as Shake it Off, Blank Space, Cruel Summer and Anti-Hero – tracks that are both massively successful (12 have reached No1 in the US singles chart) and critically revered. Swift's trademark since the start has been instantly memorable melodies and an evocative way with lyrics, which are often, but not always, inspired by her love life.

Take these lines from All Too Well, a 2012 track that's widely considered her best song:

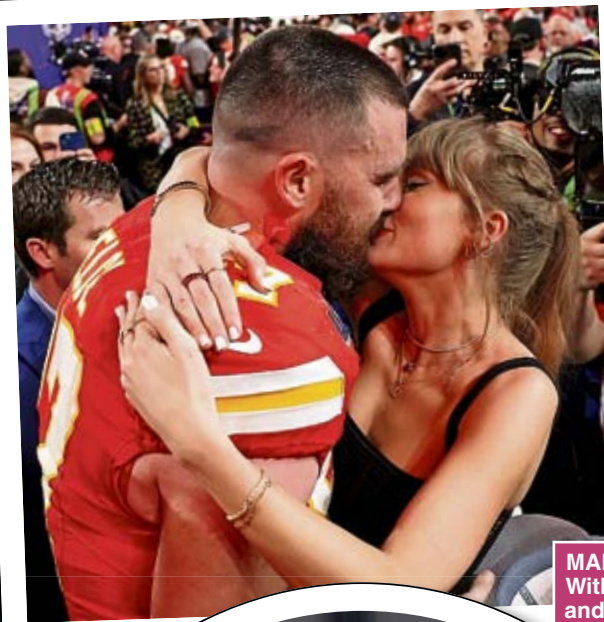
And you call me up again,
Just to break me like a promise,
So casually cruel in the name of being honest,
I'm a crumpled up piece of paper lying here.

Said to be about actor Jake Gyllenhaal (though Swift never reveals the subjects of her songs), it reduces many fans to tears when she plays it live.

That open flow of emotion between the star and her Swifties – as her super-fans, many of whom have followed her since her first single, 2006's Tim McGraw, are known – is another reason for her popularity: she's the wise but still fallible older sister you've always wanted.

She was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania, and until she was eight lived on a Christmas tree farm nearby – one of her duties was clearing praying mantis pods off the branches.

The Swifts then moved to affluent

TAYLORVERSE

MANNA FOR LYRICS: With Travis Kelce, left, and her ex, Joe Alwyn

SHAKING BRITAIN: Taylor Swift opening UK tour in Edinburgh, main and above

CHRISTMAS TREE KID: As a youngster with mother, Andrea

Wyomissing, where Taylor – who has a younger brother, Austin – developed an interest in music and performing.

She took classes at the Berks Youth Theatre Academy and by the age of 11 had won a karaoke contest that offered the chance to appear onstage at the Bloomsburg Fair.

Another competition landed her a slot singing in front of 24,000 tennis fans at the US Open in New York and she was also chosen to perform at a Philadelphia 76ers-Detroit Pistons basketball game. While researching my new book, Taylor: Era by Era – The Unauthorised Biography, I discovered that rap star Jay-Z, who was sitting courtside at the game, thought she was so good he high-fived her.

Around this time, she came across country music and was so taken with it that – after much pleading – persuaded her parents to move to Nashville so she could be in the thick of the country industry. She was 14 and determined to get a record deal.

Her songwriting so impressed Sony/ATV Publishing that she became their youngest staff writer. Two years later she signed a recording contract with Big Machine Records, who went on to release her first six albums.

Success was virtually immediate. A wholesome, curly-haired blonde with a partiality to sundresses, she was the Nashville ideal, and singles like Teardrops on My Guitar and Love Story zipped up the US chart. Starting with her second LP, Fearless, every album reached No1.

It took the UK slightly longer to catch on but she's now as successful here as she is at home – and everywhere else.

Whether writing alone or with partners like Liz Rose or Jack Antonoff, Taylor's songwriting grew increasingly sophisticated and when she abandoned country music for full-on pop on 2014's 1989 album, she entered the imperial phase of her career – when everything she touched turned to platinum.

She's the only person to win the Grammy award for Album of the Year four times (for Fearless, 1989, Folklore and Midnights).

There was a bad patch around 2016, when she rowed with Kim Kardashian and Kim's then-husband Kanye West about whether she'd given West permission to call her a "bitch" in one of his songs. They implied she had, she said she hadn't. She hadn't.

During that period, she kept her head down, spending most of her time in Primrose Hill, north London, with her actor boyfriend Joe Alwyn. He inspired many songs, from London Boy ("I saw the dimples first and then I heard the accent") to the bitter So Long, London, written after they split in 2023 ("I'm p***ed off you let me give you all that youth for free"). She's always had a weakness for artistic men – boyfriends have included DJ Calvin Harris, rockers John Mayer and Matty Healy and pop idol Harry Styles.

Her current partner breaks the mould: Kansas City Chiefs football star Travis Kelce is beefy and blunt, and the pair can't seem to get enough of each other – with Taylor attending every Chiefs game she can and Kelce joining her at gigs.

Their relationship has boosted the Chiefs' "equivalent brand value" by $331.5million (£261m) and the Swift effect has also generated the highest-ever viewership of NFL games among women.

She has an almost superhuman ability to work extremely hard.

Take her "Taylor's Version" re-recording project. Her first record label Big Machine was bought in 2019 by high-powered music manager Scooter Braun.

Taylor (who left the label when her contract expired in 2018) is no fan of his and was dismayed that he now owned her music. Her response was to remake her first six albums under the title Taylor's Version and release them on her new label, Republic.

The first four have topped charts worldwide and the remaining two, as yet unreleased – Reputation and the debut – will do the same when they appear.

Talk about getting her own back.

The remarkable thing is that much of the re-recording has taken place while she's been on the road with Eras. It's as if staging an extravagant three-hour show every night doesn't give her enough to do.

Meanwhile, she also worked on The Tortured Poets Department (the title was linked by Swifties to The Tortured Man Club, a short-lived WhatsApp group formed by Alwyn) while on tour.

Being Superwoman has reaped enormous rewards.

AS OF this writing, Tortured Poets is spending its sixth week at No1 in the UK and its seventh in the US. On April 19, the day of its release, it chalked up 314.5 million Spotify streams – the streaming platform's highest single-day figure ever.

Meanwhile, all 152 Eras shows are sold out, with demand so high that Ticketmaster crashed when the American dates went on sale. As the tour moves from city to city – it arrived in Britain last week with three shows at Edinburgh's Murrayfield Stadium – it boosts local economies thanks to the demand for hotel rooms and restaurants. A $4billion uplift to the American economy has been generated; expect something proportionally similar in the UK.

And, according to seismic readings recorded by the British Geological Survey over the three nights Swift sang for 220,000 fans at Murrayfield, they made the earth move. Seismologists picked up the tremors from all those stomping feet 3.5 miles away.

All this, and she's not even 35. Welcome to Taylor's universe: call it the Taylorverse.

Pictures: GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY

SNAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL IN THE JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
TRAVEL
PAGES 49-52

18 years in jail for rapist who spiked drink

By **Paul Jeeves** Crime Editor

A PREDATOR who spiked a woman's drink before dragging her to a hotel room where he raped her has been jailed for 18 years.

Footage showed Siyabonga Dunga kidnapping the near-unconscious victim and hauling her through the streets of Leeds.

The "dangerous and calculating sexual predator" tricked the woman's friends after drugging his victim in the Back Room Bar on January 21 last year.

Dunga, 39, had given her the drink and "stuck to her like a limpet" as she became disorientated and confused.

Footage from the bar showed her steady on her feet and chatting to friends. But seconds later she was unable to speak or stand.

At the pretence of coming to her aid, Dunga took his victim outside to get some air and sent her friend back into the club to retrieve the victim's phone, telling her he had seen somebody else pick up the device. But he pocketed it.

While the friend was inside, Dunga kidnapped the woman, who could not walk unaided, dragging her through the streets to a nearby hotel he had pre-booked despite living just a mile away. Hotel CCTV showed she collapsed and was unresponsive before Dunga struggled to wedge a door open to drag her inside. The footage showed the woman's phone illuminating as her friends desperately tried to find her whereabouts.

Calculating...Dunga

She woke to find Dunga laughing at her, but couldn't remember what happened. He was traced through his DNA.

Dunga was convicted of administering a substance with intent, kidnap, intent to commit a sexual offence and rape. Sentencing him at Leeds Crown Court Judge Robin Mairs said: "It's difficult to think of a more callous, calculated disregard of the basic humanity of a woman in what you did that night.

"It was pre-planned, organised rape. What you did will haunt her for the rest of her life." Dunga will be deported at the end of his sentence.

Bennett family war over estate

By **Frances Millar**

Picture: GETTY

Happier times ...Tony Bennett and his family

TONY Bennett's two daughters are suing their brother, alleging he mishandled and failed to disclose some of their late father's assets.

The lawsuit is filed by Antonia and Johanna Bennett, partly against D'Andrea "Danny" Bennett, trustee of the estate.

They accuse him of not accounting for all proceeds from the sale of the singer's catalogue and image rights.

The court document claims "it remains unclear what music assets were or were not sold as part of the deal" as the sisters "have not been provided with various details of the transaction despite repeated requests".

Danny Bennett, who was the singer's manager – until his death last year – and runs the family trust, was contacted for comment. Another brother Daegal "Dae" Bennett and the singer's widow Susan Benedetto are also named in the lawsuit, filed in New York earlier this week.

It further alleges Danny Bennett "obtained personal benefits for himself and his company" including from the sale of memorabilia, made on behalf of Tony Bennett, the family trust and Benedetto Arts LLC. The sisters want "equitable relief" and a full accounting of the trust, saying: "Information provided raises more questions than answers."

The women allege their dad earned over £79million from live shows in the last 15 years of his career but that his gross estate is purportedly valued at less than £5.5million.

No1 radicaliser...'that's a badge of honour for me'

By **Paul Jeeves** Crime Editor

ISLAMIST preacher Anjem Choudary considered being viewed as Britain's number one radicaliser a "badge of honour", a jury heard.

Choudary is alleged to have taken a "caretaker role" in directing banned terrorist group Al-Muhajiroun (ALM) – as its leader was jailed.

He is also accused of being a member of the proscribed organisation for "many years" and of encouraging support via online meetings.

The prosecution claims that Choudary, 57, directed it for a significant period from 2014 and urged support for it by addressing online meetings of the Islamic Thinkers Society.

It is alleged that the New York-based ITS and ALM group were "one and the same".

Woolwich Crown Court was told yesterday Choudary boasted of his reputation with UK authorities, telling a lecture class: "When I went to prison here in this country in 2016 they opened up a separation centre for me and my dear brothers because they had become so worried about our Dawah [spreading Islam's word].

"We never carried swords, we never carried guns or knives. They said to me... 'You are the number one radicaliser in Britain'.

"They expected me to be unhappy with that; I'm like…that is a badge of honour for me."

Tom Little KC, prosecuting, added: "What does that tell you about his mindset?"

Also on trial is Khaled Hussein, 29, from Canada, who prosecutors say was a "follower and dedicated supporter" of Choudary.

He denies being a member of ALM while Choudary denies directing a terrorist organisation, being a member of a proscribed organisation and addressing meetings to encourage support for a proscribed organisation.

It is claimed Choudary was recorded speaking with Omar Bakri Mohammed, founder and spiritual leader of ALM – he was in jail in Lebanon from 2014 to 2023, and Choudary stepped in and "filled the void", Mr Little said.

Jurors were told Choudary was convicted of supporting Isis in 2016. He was released from jail in October 2018 on licence until July 2021.

Mr Little said the conviction made Choudary "more cautious" about who he spoke to, but his "desire" to further ALM's aims caused him to "let down his guard". ITS was infiltrated by undercover law enforcement officers in the US, who joined his online lectures and classes.

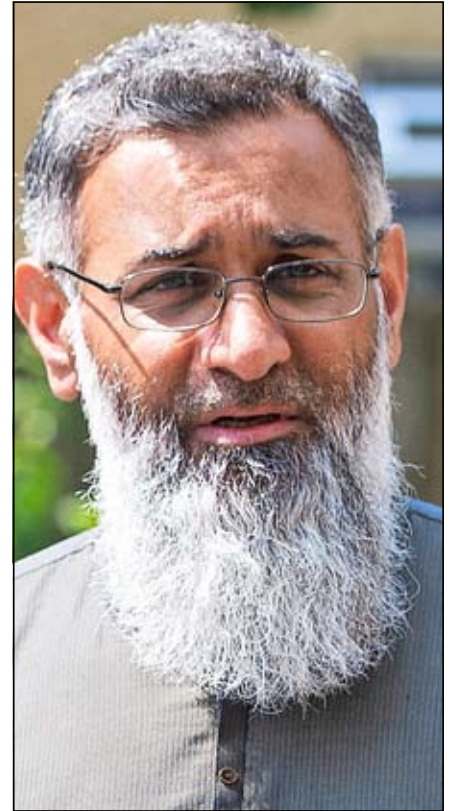
Mr Little said Choudary was "clearly cognisant of the risks" he took when discussing more radical topics, including cautioning listeners at times that he was not seeking to encourage them in a particular direction.

But he added that "leopards don't change their spots and Anjem Choudary has not changed his mindset".

Missile

It was alleged that in a June 2022 session Choudary sought to teach a strict interpretation of Islam, speaking of how to "terrorise the enemy", and conjured up the image of preparing a Scud ballistic missile.

The court also heard that the next month Choudary messaged the ITS that the link for talks he planned was intended "only for you and brothers that you trust", leaving Mr Little to ask the jury yesterday: "What had he got to hide if this was no more than just legitimate religious education?"

The trial continues.

'Banned group role'...Anjem Choudary

Synagogue bomb plan teen jailed

Neo-Nazi...Reynolds

A TEENAGE neo-Nazi has been jailed for eight years for creating a detailed plan for a suicide bomb attack on a synagogue as part of a campaign "to make Jews afraid again".

Mason Reynolds, 19, marked up a Google map and satellite image of the site detailing "entry points and points to attack", a court heard.

He "had a neo-Nazi mindset and had prepared an extensive library of manuals, explosives manuals, gun-making manuals", prosecutor Naomi Parsons told Winchester Crown Court.

Reynolds, of Brighton, was found guilty of possessing an article connected with the preparation of terrorism against the synagogue in Hove.

He also admitted possessing material likely to be useful for someone plotting terror, and sharing terrorist publications.

C'mon England ...and not just in the Euros

IT'S A big week for England, and I'm not talking about our Euro 2024 campaign which kicks off tomorrow against Serbia. This is English Wine Week. Once regarded as a novelty, our wine is now firmly established on the global stage. The combination of climate change creating more favourable growing conditions and the dedication of winemakers has resulted in a surge of high-quality wines.

Produced using the traditional "Champagne" method, English sparkling wines in particular have garnered significant acclaim. The chalky soils of Sussex, Kent and Hampshire provide ideal conditions for growing grape varieties such as chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier.

There's now also an increasingly impressive range of top-quality white, rosé and red wines available, made either as a single varietal or as a blend. The diversity of grapes has expanded and includes white varieties seyval blanc and pinot gris and red varieties dornfelder, regent and rondo. Enjoy refreshing dry whites, fruity rosés and complex reds.

There is plenty to see and do in English Wine Week, from vineyard tours, stays and tastings; pub and restaurant tie-ins; and special releases and discounts – making it an ideal time to buy/try English and champion its core aims in supporting winemakers and the broader agricultural community.

The future of English wine looks promising and the more we drink, the more competitive prices will become. So seasoned connoisseur or a curious beginner, raise a glass to the celebration of English wine!

- *Visit winegb.co.uk/english-wine-week for more details*

KICK BACK WITH THIS BUNCH

1 Candover Brook Brut NV (£37, 12%)
Bursting with citrus, almost honeysuckle on the nose and a gloriously fruity palate with a long, fresh finish. Quite delightful. Available from Candover Brook, Philgas & Swiggott, The Naked Grape and The Wine Yard.

2 Simpsons Wine Estate Railway Hill Rosé 2022 (£19.50, 12.5%)
This delicate pink rosé promises much and always over-delivers. Aromas of strawberries with a hint of watermelon and a crisp, bold finish. The taste of English summer. Available from Simpsons' Wine Estate, Hawkins Brothers and Grape Britannia.

3 Denbies Orange Solaris 2022 (£24.50, 12%)
Tropical fruits – think pineapple, pomegranate and lychee – are at the fore of this marvellous white wine made in the style of a red using solaris grapes. Fruity, fabulous and a talker, too, if you're having friends over. Available from Denbies.

4 Lyme Bay Chardonnay 2020 (£30, 13%)
This delicately balanced chardonnay with notes of ripe apples, toast and mango has a creamy palate (peaches, more apples and a trace of tropical fruits) and oak. Available from Lyme Bay, Majestic and VINVM.

5 Henners Brut Rose NV (£36, 12%)
This fabulous sparkling rosé delivers plenty of bang for your buck. Red berry flavours on the palate compliment a fresh, citrusy nose and a delicate, creamily bubbled finish. Available from Hattersley Wine, Chester Beer & Wine, Woodwinters and D Byrne & Co.

6 Everflyht NV Brut (£28, 12%)
This appealing blend of pinot noir, chardonnay and meunier grapes pops and bubbles in all the right places with delicious notes of baked apple and lemon and a smooth, creamy finish. The name is a struggle but not the fizz. Available from Grape Britannia.

Share your own drink-related tips with matt.nixson@reachplc.com

Journalist is jailed in MeToo row

By **Emily Braeger**

A CHINESE court has sentenced the prominent #MeToo journalist Sophia Huang Xueqin to five years in jail for "subversion against the state".

Ms Huang, 36, was convicted and sentenced yesterday, nearly 10 months after her trial.

She had reported stories about sexual abuse victims and spoken out about misogyny and sexism in Chinese newsrooms.

Her friend, the labour rights activist Wang Jianbing, who stood trial with Ms Huang, was sentenced to three years and six months in prison.

The pair were held secretly for a month before their families were informed, and then put under house arrest for six months before being charged with "subversion".

Friends allege they have been held in solitary confinement and abused in prison.

Amnesty International called the convictions in Guangzhou, "malicious and totally groundless".

Yob caught punching XL puppy

By **Adam Dutton**

A THUG caught on a doorbell camera punching a puppy has been jailed after the harrowing footage was put on social media.

Tyler Steele, 28, sparked anger after the 12-week-old XL bully was filmed yelping in pain. A court heard he repeatedly punched it in the head before throwing it across the road last July.

He also threw a French bulldog from a parked car on May 2 last year.

Steele, of Stoke-on-Trent, pleaded guilty to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

He was jailed for 18 weeks and banned from keeping animals for five years at North Staffordshire Justice Centre.

A couple who had reportedly sold Steele the puppy for £1,000 demanded it back after seeing the video.

Sgt Chris Gifford, of Staffordshire Police, said: "This case sends a clear message that we will take action against animal cruelty."

Picture: ANDY COMMINS

'Adored'...Trooper Bill's coffin was draped with a Union flag

A hero's farewell

Convoy for D-Day veteran Bill, 100

EXCLUSIVE

By **Giles Sheldrick**
Chief Reporter

IT was a fitting farewell for a hero of D-Day.

Bill Gladden was desperate to return to Normandy to salute those who fell fighting for freedom on the 80th anniversary of the landings but the warrior died in April aged 100.

Yesterday he made his final journey to be reunited with the band of brothers. Hundreds attended Trooper Bill's funeral.

His coffin arrived at West Suffolk Crematorium in a convoy of cabs and bikers, and was lifted into the chapel to the stirring sound of a lone piper.

The old soldier often travelled to France and the Netherlands, as well as UK events, with the Taxi Charity For Military Veterans. The service was taken by Padre Adrian Teare, a Parachute Regiment soldier turned priest, and attended by his family, friends and Pegasus, the regiment's pony mascot. The final song was Vera Lynn's When They Sound The Last All Clear.

Just before he died Bill said: "It's important to me to pay tribute to my friends who never came home."

Cabbie and charity volunteer Paul Cook said: "It was one of the biggest privileges in my life to have known Bill. I will miss him dearly."

The charity's Dick Goodwin added: "He was one in a million who was adored by everyone he met."

Bill of Haverhill, Suffolk, was serving with the Royal Armoured Corps when he volunteered for airborne duties. On June 6, 1944, he flew into Normandy and almost died after being hit in the leg by machine gun fire. After the war Bill worked as an accountant. He was married to Marie for 52 years until her death in 2010.

He is survived by his daughter Linda.

Honoured...Trooper Bill's coffin was given an escort by a convoy of cabs and bikers to West Suffolk Crematorium

Final salute...Bill and as a young man

Sandwiches recalled over E.coli fears

By **Hanna Geissler** Health Editor

DOZENS of sandwich products containing salad leaves are being recalled over fears they may be contaminated with E.coli.

More than 200 people have been infected across the UK since May 25, with at least 67 admitted to hospital.

The 45 recalled products include an Aldi Chicken Fajita Triple Wrap, Asda Smoky Beans & Cheddar Cheese wrap, Boots Ham & Egg Club sandwich, Sainsbury's Greek Style Wrap and Co-op Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato sandwich.

All the items have use-by dates between June 15 and June 17 and were made by leading convenience food producer Greencore Group.

Darren Whitby, head of incidents at the Food Standards Agency, said manufacturers were taking a "precautionary measure".

He added: "This is a complex investigation and we have worked swiftly with the relevant businesses and local authorities concerned to narrow down the wide range of foods consumed to a small number of salad leaf products used in sandwiches, wraps, subs and rolls.

"Infections caused by STEC bacteria [E.coli] can cause severe bloody diarrhoea and, in some cases, more serious complications. We therefore advise any consumers who have any of these products not to eat them."

The UK Health Security Agency said the outbreak included 147 cases in England, 27 in Wales, 35 in Scotland and two in Northern Ireland.

Around 1,500 cases of STEC (Shigatoxin-producing Escherichia coli) are usually recorded across the UK each year. E.coli is often transmitted through contaminated food or close contact with an infected person or animal.

A full list of recalled sandwiches is at food.gov.uk.

Alert...salad leaves 'bug link'

EXCLUSIVE

By Simon Hemelryk

THE ULTIMATE

Legendary music PR Alan Edwards has worked with everyone from Blondie to Naomi Campbell and the Beckhams. His deliciously candid new memoir lifts the lid on trashed hotels, Russian Roulette with Hells Angels... and how he bumped David Bowie into playing a career-saving Glastonbury Festival gig

ALAN Edwards froze as the balaclava-clad Dutch Hells Angel tapped the steel revolver against his head. "Look at this, ja," the biker commanded. "It is .22 calibre. Powerful for such a little gun." Edwards tried to remain calm. "Oh, ja, ja," he casually replied, while trying to conceal his trembling.

It was November 1977 and the fledgling music PR had bought a journalist to see The Stranglers perform in Amsterdam. The British punks appealed to the local Hells Angels, so they invited the band to a party at their club after the gig.

But Edwards felt uneasy from the start.

One man was using the windows as target practice with a machine gun. Another rode his Harley-Davidson through the bar. The Angel with the gun to Edwards' head muttered something like "Russian roulette", then pulled the trigger. It clicked.

"Bet it wasn't loaded," a shaken Edwards, then only 21, told himself, as the biker disappeared. A few minutes later, a photographer he was working with walked in.

"Hey," the man said. "There's a bloke in the back in a balaclava shooting bottles off the wall with a revolver."

This brush with death is one of many memorable and occasionally wild rock'n'roll experiences Edwards describes in his extraordinary new memoir, I Was There. In nearly 50 years as a music-industry PR guru he has publicised the records, tours and goings-on of clients ranging from the Rolling Stones and Prince to the Spice Girls and Robbie Williams. He even brokered the seven-figure media deal for David and Victoria Beckham's wedding.

Edwards grew up in the distinctly un-rock'n'roll town of Worthing, on the West Sussex coast. "I was football-mad and used to love reading the coverage in newspapers on the way to games," the 68-year-old says, sitting in his home in upmarket Belsize Park, north London. "I also really got into music – Radio Luxembourg and that sort of thing. I loved newspapers and I'd walk down the street telling people about bands. The PR grounding was in place early."

Edwards moved to London and began working for Record Mirror and Sounds reviewing gigs, before being recruited in 1975 by legendary PR Keith Altham, the man who suggested Jimi Hendrix set fire to his guitar at the Monterey Pop Festival.

Edwards soon found himself promoting The Who and rubbing shoulders with rock stars such as Keith Moon and Eric Burdon of The Animals.

HIS career blossomed and he started taking on his own solo accounts, eventually launching his own business, named The Outside Organisation since the nineties. Early clients included The Stranglers and Blondie. Edwards bagged the latter simply by knocking on their dressing room after a gig in Camden Town in 1978.

"Oh, hello," he blurted out, when guitarist Chris Stein opened the door. "I wondered if you need a PR?" The "almost ridiculously beautiful" Debbie Harry, as Edwards describes her in his memoir, came to the door, wearing a towel.

"She looked me up and down and said 'Yeah, he'll do'."

He soon became part of their gang, going to places like Studio 54 nightclub in New York.

One night after a boring meal with record-label executives in Hamburg, the ever-spur-of-the-moment Debbie, along with Edwards and other band members, ended up in the nearby red-light district. The local sex workers didn't take kindly to being gawped at and, one by one, started moving towards them menacingly in long black leather boots, hissing and spitting. The band fled.

But interesting things always seemed to happen when Blondie were about – and Edwards adored it.

One of the wildest acts he managed were gothic-rock band The Cult.

"[Lead singer] Ian Astbury was always getting into scrapes. We were staying in a Holiday Inn in Swiss Cottage and the band decided to daub the walls and wreck the room," he recalls. "The quick-thinking tour manager went to buy a tin of Dulux, repainted the walls and tidied up. The hotel manager came to the room to deal with some noise complaints and the band said, 'What complaints? Nothing's wrong'.

"Unfortunately, the manager was leaning against the wall at this point and his M&S suit was ruined. The Cult were banned from all Holiday Inns for life."

Heavy-metal act Motorhead lived up to their boozy reputation, too.

"On one flight on a small private plane, the band were knocking back lots of beer and getting very drunk, when someone asked where the toilet was. There wasn't one. So everyone had to relieve themselves in empty beer cans and glasses. We were holding all these glasses full of urine when the plane hit turbulence and, of course, everything went everywhere. Quite a mess."

A rather more surprising musical rabble-rouser was Ronan Keating.

"I played a round of golf with him," recalls Edwards. "Ronan was lovely in the clubhouse, signing autographs. But his shot off the first tee went into the undergrowth.

"He starts smashing his club. Then he

IN THE THICK OF IT: Music PR Alan Edwards

OUTSIDER

SOFASTARS: Edwards, right, with Bowie and wife Iman. Below, with punk clients The Stranglers

WHEN BOWIE READ TRAFFIC REPORTS

DAVID Bowie was perhaps Alan Edwards' greatest client. Having seen him live on the Ziggy Stardust tour as a 16-year-old fan, Edwards began working with Bowie in 1982, their relationship only ending with the singer's death aged 69 from cancer in January 2016.

He reveals how Bowie played Glastonbury "by mistake" following a rumour planted by the publicist. The pop icon, who was experiencing a lull in his career, "didn't want" to perform at the festival in 2000. In a bid to return the singer to the peak of his powers, Edwards leaked that he "might do Glastonbury". When a Sunday newspaper splashed the news, the festival was so inundated with calls that Bowie was confirmed the next day.

After a nervous three-day wait, Edwards heard back from the star who called to say they were "naughty boys", but thanked his team for delivering the slot.

Another time, the star read out all the traffic reports for an entire BBC Radio 1 show without anyone realising. Bowie described a "pile-up on the M6 and delays on the M25" live on air, Edwards told a podcast.

The "modest" pop icon, who would make coffees for everyone and walked to work carrying a Greek newspaper as a disguise, was in Manchester doing the Mark and Lard show.

"He was really in a relaxed mood, he was just kind of bored and he said, 'Do you mind if I do the traffic reports for the rest of the show'," Edwards recalled. "It was things like 'there's a pile-up on the M6, delays on the M25' – but nobody clocked it was David doing all of that."

Their final meeting was in New York a few months before the release of Bowie's final album.

Black Star came out on January 8, 2016. Bowie died from cancer two days later.

GLASTO: Playing festival in 2000 gave Bowie's career a new lease of life

GLAMOUR: Edwards with supermodel Naomi Campbell

'The curveballs came thick and fast with David Bowie... but they were always interesting'

Pictures: GETTY

begins swearing, saying something like, 'What am I f***ing doing?'. He's the housewife's choice but he had another side to him on the golf course."

Despite such tales, Edwards insists that a music PR's life is far from all booze-fuelled adventures. Most of his time has been spent with journalists, liaising with them about new acts, gigs and records. But he was able to spend time with some of the most extraordinary cultural figures in recent years.

"I loved David Bowie as a kid, but never thought I'd get to meet him, let alone work with him for nearly four decades," he says.

He publicised everything from the 1983 Serious Moonlight tour to Bowie's highly acclaimed comeback album, The Next Day, in 2013. "He had a wonderfully inquisitive mind and you never knew where it was going to take you," he says.

"One day he asked me to guide this young art student from Leeds around London. He bought lots of medical equipment – very weird." The student's name was Damien Hirst. "Another time, David asked me to stand in for him at the board meeting of an upmarket art magazine, full of art critics. I quickly had to mug up on all these modern painters. Another day, he'd announce to me that he was going to design wallpaper."

Edwards smiles: "The curveballs came thick and fast with David, but they were always really interesting." The same is true of his own stories of the rich and famous.

EDWARDS worked with Prince on projects such as his 21-night residency at London's O2 in 2007. He describes him as "a proper genius".

"He was one of the shyest people you could imagine. He'd go weeks and weeks without talking to anyone," he recalls. "He figured out he wasn't good at interviews and avoided them. But he knew he needed to be visible. We'd get a pack of pictures about once a month from Paisley Park.

"It would be Prince in a purple suit. Prince with a purple Rolls-Royce. Prince in front of a purple house. He told us to create a story with it – do what we wanted. So we'd go to the papers and say Prince has bought a purple Rolls-Royce. The crazier the story, the better, as far as Prince was concerned."

Edwards also worked on Michael Jackson's This Is It tour in 2009. He helped it get on to six newspaper front pages and ticket sales went through the roof – selling out 50 nights in London. But before the shows were due to start, Jackson suffered a cardiac arrest following an inadvertent overdose of prescription medication.

"For those months, Michael was truly once again the King of Pop," Edwards writes in his new memoir. Another performer he worked with was Amy Winehouse. The Back to Black singer died aged 27 in 2011 after long battles with booze, drugs and eating disorders.

"She was very witty, cheeky and friendly. But very fragile. Physically, almost waiflike," Edwards says.

Paparazzi photographers followed almost her every move in the noughties.

They knocked on her door to provoke her, to try to get a picture of her looking startled and imply it was because of drink or drugs, when actually she'd been doing the washing up. But Amy, who had her demons, had a love/hate relationship with the media.

"I wouldn't say she was too easy to deal with, but she kind of liked it," says Edwards. "She'd grown up with tabloid media and understood it."

He believes that the rock lifestyle has calmed down a lot, recently. Megastars like Taylor Swift and Harry Styles are undoubtedly far more aware of their public profiles.

"There's not as much money around and there's definitely far less debauchery, if any. You find rock stars backstage with a bottle of Perrier water. The most outrageous thing they've done is eat an olive," says Edwards.

"They are probably conscious about something being picked up on social media or damaging their health. But being backstage at a gig can be like a church."

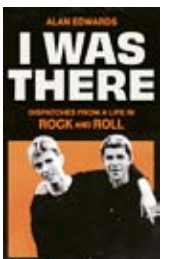
He believes coverage is "more managed now" and hellraising less common.

"It's all about promoting products," he says. "It's a shame, as the public likes to hear about the ups and downs and crazy stuff in stars' lives. It helps them connect with them.

"The people who are real characters, like Lennon or Hendrix, are the ones who go down in history."

Celebrity PR doesn't always have the best reputation, so does Edwards feel his is a life well-lived?

"You're on the phone 24 hours a day, and you never know where you're going to be travelling," he admits. "I've still got changes of clothes in the office in case I've got to rush off. But if you have the right personality, PR is the greatest job in the world."

● *I Was There: Dispatches From A Life In Rock and Roll, by Alan Edwards (Simon & Schuster, £25) is out now. For free UK P&P, visit expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832*

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found on page ??

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	24	-17	SQUARE IT	+16	÷5	-4	x5	+18	÷9	
Intermediate	304	75% OF THIS	-63	4/5 OF THIS	+164	7/8 OF THIS	-142	5/9 OF THIS	+169	
Advanced	132	-126	x36	-28	INCREASE BY 75%	-113	REVERSE THE DIGITS	7/9 OF THIS	+153	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

FRIDAY, JUNE 14
EUROMILLIONS 2 13 16 24 32 1 7
THUNDERBALL 11 15 25 27 28 5

THURSDAY, JUNE 13
SET FOR LIFE 10 16 19 24 38 3

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
LOTTERY
13 40 41 42 51 59 5
THUNDERBALL
11 15 19 31 36 3

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

FRIDAY, JUNE 14
1 18 19 30 33 13

THURSDAY, JUNE 13
2 9 41 42 48 5

The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending June 30, 2024, is LEW Health CIC T/A HL London

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Thursday:
Should access to cheap junk food be restricted to cut the rise of diabetes?

YES: 80%
NO: 20%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

If you have a story: **020 8612 7077** or email: **expressnews@reachplc.com**

If you have a photo: **020 8612 7171** or email: **expresspix@express.co.uk**

For general inquiries: **020 8612 7000**
WWW.EXPRESS.CO.UK FOR GREAT READER OFFERS

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

	5		2		9			1
	1	4	5		8		7	
6	8			7		5		
		1	6			3		4
7					2			6
8		6		4	1	9		
				2			3	9
	6	8	7			2	1	
			4		5		6	

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry.
For today's solution call:
09071 812 571
(Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge)
For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

MORE PUZZLES – PAGE 42

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

2	8	3	9	7	4	6	1	5
1	9	6	2	3	5	7	8	4
5	4	7	1	6	8	9	3	2
6	3	5	7	9	2	1	4	8
4	1	8	3	5	6	2	7	9
7	2	9	8	4	1	3	5	6
3	7	4	6	8	9	5	2	1
9	5	1	4	2	7	8	6	3
8	6	2	5	1	3	4	9	7

Singer Shakira puts the accent on a fresh start

Picture: MASON POOLE

By **Emily Braeger**

SHAKIRA goes for a little costume drama as she chatted about life after splitting with Spanish football star Gerard Pique.

The Whenever, Wherever singer says she is getting her mojo – and her Caribbean accent – back since quitting Barcelona for Miami, Florida, with their sons, Milan, 11, and Sasha, nine.

The Colombian, 47, who broke up with Gerard, 37, last year, posed for Rolling Stone magazine in a swimsuit and Christian Dior bodysuit.

She said: "There's things about yourself you change for the other person. When that relationship breaks down, you're left with nothing and have to heal, search for yourself, and travel back toward the centre of yourself.

"Now I'm hanging out with Barranquilleras and surrounded by Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Colombians.

"Yeah, my accent is back, thank God."

LIFE-SAVING MACHINES FOR ALL

EXCLUSIVE

By **Hanna Geissler**
Health Editor

Olympic gymnast gets on her bike in memory of brother

Before the tragedy...from left, Gemma, Ellie, Josh, Becky and Alex

FORMER Olympic gymnast Ellie Downie is backing a Daily Express campaign to register thousands more life-saving defibrillators as she battles to raise awareness of hidden heart conditions.

Ellie's world was rocked in May 2021 by the sudden death of her brother Josh, 24, who collapsed at cricket practice.

It emerged he had an undiagnosed genetic condition which weakened his heart muscles, triggering a cardiac arrest.

Tomorrow, Ellie and her brother Alex, 31, will take part in the British Heart Foundation's 54-mile London to Brighton Bike Ride to raise vital funds.

Ellie, a BHF ambassador, said: "I think it will be quite an emotional day. Hopefully I'll hold it together until the end.

"It's a very different challenge for me. That's how I channelled my grief, by going into gyms and distracting myself.

"When I'm on the bike and I don't want to be sat there, I just focus on that mental discipline and

get it done for Josh." The Daily Express Complete The Circuit crusade puts the spotlight on the UK's national defibrillator network and the importance of registering devices.

Since our campaign began last May, the database has grown from 66,000 to 92,000, but health chiefs want at least 100,000 defibrillators on the list.

Ellie, 24, from Nottingham, said: "The Circuit is the main way that people calling 999 can be told where the closest working one is.

"It still mind-boggles me that you genuinely only have a matter of minutes before it can be too late.

"Those minutes matter so much. Getting every single defibrillator we can registered on The Circuit is the most important thing."

Ellie, who competed with sister Becky, now 32, at the Rio 2016 games, was on her way home from Olympic trials in Wales when she heard Josh had died in Liverpool.

She said: "They thought he was having a seizure so were advised not to use a defibrillator. Then the worst thing imaginable happened. It was all very much a blur and a complete shock.

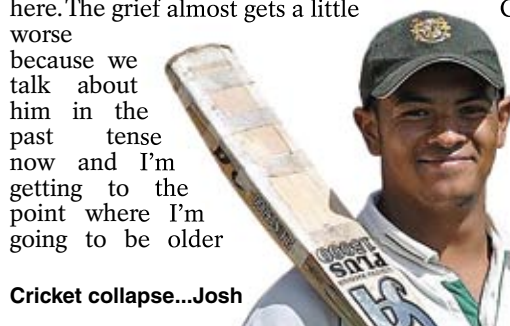
"It's weird to think of him as not here. The grief almost gets a little worse because we talk about him in the past tense now and I'm getting to the point where I'm going to be older than him this summer." A post-mortem revealed Josh had arrhythmic cardiomyopathy. Now siblings Ellie, Alex, Becky and Gemma, 34, must have checks every two years.

PT and pilates instructor Ellie, who won 12 world and European gymnastics medals, said: "The only good thing that can come from Josh's passing is that we have this platform to raise awareness. So many people have said to me since Josh passed, 'I didn't even know the difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest', or the severity of it and how common it is in young people."

In an open letter today, the BHF, NHS England, St John Ambulance, Resuscitation Council UK and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives urge anyone with a defibrillator to register it today.

● *You can support Ellie's fundraising at justgiving.com/page/ellies-bikeride-1712676048284*

Cricket collapse...Josh

Saddling up...Ellie trains for London to Brighton ride and, pictured on the right with sister Becky at Rio 2016 Olympics

OPEN LETTER

Signed by the British Heart Foundation, NHS England, St John Ambulance, Resuscitation Council UK, and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives

DEFIBRILLATORS can be the difference between life and death in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Along with CPR, they buy precious time until paramedics arrive and provide further treatment.

It's vital ambulances know where these life-saving devices are. That's why The Circuit – the national defibrillator network – was launched in 2021.

It provides a national picture of where defibrillators are across the UK, so that ambulance services can direct bystanders to the nearest registered defibrillator if they see somebody having an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Tragically, there are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year in the UK, but fewer than one in 10 people survive.

Efforts

This is partly because public access defibrillators are used in less than 11% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests.

The Circuit's partner organisations are encouraging anyone with a defibrillator to register it immediately so that the device location is known to the ambulance services.

We're also calling on schools to register their defibrillators, as there are currently at least 12,000 yet to be registered.

We've come so far, and we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to the incredible efforts of the public in registering defibrillators on to the network.

But we still have further to go together.

With over 92,000 registrations, we're so close to the milestone of 100,000 defibrillators on The Circuit.

We're calling on anyone who looks after a lifesaving defibrillator to register it today.

It could be the difference between life and death for someone in your local community.

VILLAGERS RESCUED ME AFTER BIKE RIDE COLLAPSE...BECAUSE THEY KNEW WHERE TO FIND A DEFIBRILLATOR

'Incredibly fortunate'...grandad Alan and family

By **Hanna Geissler**

A DEFIBRILLATOR saved Alan Thompson's life when he suffered a cardiac arrest during a bike ride.

The grandfather had just started a 50-mile trip with his brother David when he collapsed in 2018.

Five strangers rushed to provide CPR and used a public access defibrillator to deliver an electric shock to his heart.

A lucky last-minute route change meant Alan, 67, was passing through the village of Smisby, Derbyshire, at the time.

He said: "I was incredibly fortunate. It happened in a small village and the people there knew where a defibrillator was, only 150 metres away. If we had been on a different route – we're surrounded by country lanes – we might have been out in the wilds.

"That's where The Circuit comes in. It's absolutely crucial that the ambulance service can direct callers to the nearest defib."

Alan, from Swadlincote, South Derbys, was rushed to hospital and had two stents fitted to widen a narrowed artery.

The quick response of the people who sprang into action meant he lived to see the birth of his second grandchild. The following year, Alan was back in the saddle to raise money for the British Heart Foundation in the 100-mile Ride London event.

Alan, who worked in the brewing industry for 42 years, has urged people to learn CPR and be aware of where defibrillators are located on routes.

He added: "If you're a guardian of a defib, please register it on The Circuit – it makes all the difference.

"If someone's heart has stopped, getting that defibrillator there quickly is absolutely crucial."

The Saturday briefing

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER by KAY HARRISON

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Is there anything you're yearning to know? Send your questions, on any subject, to the contacts given below, and we will do our best to answer them...

Pictures: GETTY

DREAM LAND: Nightime is often a fertile time for songwriters such as Jimi Hendrix. Below: A club sandwich

Q The Vapors had a hit single called Turning Japanese. Someone told me this phrase means going mad. Is this correct?

Simon Warmingham, Pencoed, Glamorgan

A Turning Japanese by new wave band The Vapors was an international hit and reached No.3 in the UK charts in 1980.

Frontman Dave Fenton said it was about angst and youth and turning into something you didn't expect to. He wrote it after splitting up with a girlfriend and only being left with a photo of her, which left him feeling displaced and in a different world.

Many strange theories sprang up about the meaning, but Fenton said he'd woken in the middle of the night with the "turning Japanese" line in his head, so wrote it down and fell back to sleep. He said it could have easily ended up as "turning Portuguese".

There have been many other instances of lyrics and melodies coming to songwriters in dreams, most famously Paul McCartney's Yesterday. Let It Be also came to Paul in a dream, this time about his mother Mary, who died when he was 14. In this dream, Mary told Paul to "let it be".

Keith Richards from the Rolling Stones leapt from his bed to record the riff and the words "I can't get no satisfaction" after it came to him in his sleep.

Jimi Hendrix said Purple Haze was based on a dream where he was walking under the sea surrounded by a purple haze.

Sting scored a No.1 hit for The Police after waking in the night with the line "every breath you take" in his head. And Billy Joel woke up singing the title track of his album The River Of Dreams after a productive night's sleep.

Q My wife tells me club sandwiches got their name as it's an acronym of "chicken and lettuce under bacon". Is she right?

Mark Craven, Selby, North Yorks

A I'm afraid she's wrong, although it's a neat little theory that's done the rounds. The origins of the club sandwich – traditionally triple layered, toasted, with chicken, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise, cut into quarters, and held together with cocktail sticks – come from a 19th century club.

The Saratoga Club, a gambling club in New York, claimed it introduced the sandwich in 1894, while the Union Club, on Fifth Avenue in New York, started selling a "clubhouse sandwich" – two toasted slices of Graham bread with turkey or chicken and ham in-between – five years earlier.

Around this time, a cookbook called Sandwiches included a recipe for a clubhouse sandwich, served with toasted bread, cut into triangles, with broiled ham or bacon, roasted chicken, mayonnaise, lettuce and pickles.

The sandwich was a favourite of Edward VIII and his wife, Wallis Simpson, which helped boost its popularity on these shores as a classy kind of comfort food.

Q If Monaco has no personal tax, how does it raise any income from its citizens?

Kevin P O'Connor, Hateley Heath, West Mids

A Monaco is the smallest nation outside of Vatican City – even smaller than New York's Central Park – but there's nothing small about its bank balances. One resident in three is a millionaire.

Residents who are not French nationals do not have to pay any income, capital gains or capital taxes. Inheritance tax is zero for spouses and children and very low for others. With 300 sunny days a year, tourism accounts for around 15 per cent of the annual revenue, and it's been a popular destination for wealthy visitors since the Monte Carlo Casino opened in the 1860s.

Personal income tax was abolished in 1869 as a result of the casino's success. There's plenty of money to be made from Monaco's Port Hercule, one of the world's most expensive marinas, where it can cost around £70,000 a month to moor your superyacht.

It also funds itself through revenue from monopolies, a value added tax of 20 per cent, stamp duties on documents, a tax on the profits of certain companies, and transfer duties. Residents pay social security taxes, which go towards healthcare and pensions – the more you contribute, the higher your pension will be.

Novak Djokovic, Andrea Bocelli and Shirley Bassey are among those who have bought homes in the billionaires' playground.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR INTRIGUING QUESTIONS ON ANY SUBJECT:

● **By email:** put "questions" in the subject line and send to kay.harrison@reachplc.com

● **By post:** to Any Questions, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

● **Unfortunately we cannot reply individually, but we will feature the best questions on this page.**

Emmie Barker, from Howden, East Yorkshire, would like to read the poem that features children playing on a beach and finding a singing shell. This particular verse sees American poet E.E. Cummings tamper with structure and punctuation to reflect a childlike perspective. The lower case letters and missing spaces are used deliberately by the author

MAGGIE AND MILLY AND MOLLY AND MAY

E. E. Cummings (1956)

maggie and milly and
molly and may
went down to the beach(to play
one day)

and maggie discovered a
shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't
remember her troubles,and

milly befriended a stranded
star whose rays five languid
fingers were;

and molly was chased by
a horrible thing
which raced sideways while
blowing bubbles:and
may came home with a
smooth round stone
as small as a world and as
large as alone.

For whatever we lose(like a
you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in
the sea

If you can't remember the words to a favourite verse or song from yesteryear, send us a snippet and we'll do our best to find all the wonderful words.

BEACHCOMBER 107 YEARS OLD AND STILL AS OWLISH AS EVER...

THERE has been much talk recently of small boats and illegal immigration but nothing as unusual as a case last week featuring a boat apprehended in the Channel with only two occupants on board.

According to witnesses, the boat was of a greenish colour and officials identified its passengers as one feline and one strigine.

The judge asked for clarification that the latter description meant "owl-like", though he'd always preferred the word "strigiform". An official confirmed the judge was correct, both words coming from the Latin "strix", meaning an owl.

After some delay in finding a translator, the case continued with questioning of the defendants who appeared not to speak English but communicated only with strigine hoots and feline miaowing. This is a transcript of their translated evidence:

JUDGE: Did you arrive in this country on a green boat?

STRIGINE DEFENDANT: Pea-green, m'lud.

FELINE DEFENDANT: The journey lasted just over a year, during which I married my co-defendant.

J: Was there a captain on board qualified to perform the ceremony?

FD: We did not marry aboard the boat, m'lud, but disembarked for that purpose.

J: Where did you disembark? Was it in France or England?

FD: It was in another land. I don't recall its name, but there were bong trees growing there.

J: We are getting nowhere with this line of questioning. I suggest we move on to the charge of smuggling. You were found to be attempting to import a ring.

SD: It only cost a shilling, m'lud. We bought it from a pig.

J: Are you asking us to believe that pigs can legitimately own and sell rings?

SD: It may have been some type of identifying ring. It was in the pig's nose.

FD: After the ceremony, sanctified by a Church of Bongland vicar who identified as a turkey, we ate mince and quince with a runcible spoon and danced on the sand by the light of the moon.

J: The moon?

FD: The moon.

J: You danced by the light of the moon.

The case was adjourned pending further investigation of where bong trees grow and what "runcible" means. Immigration authorities are seeking a man named Lear who may be able to help with their inquiries.

Luxury Queen Anne Voyage from Southampton to San Francisco

28 NIGHTS | 9 JANUARY 2025

COMPLIMENTARY OCEANVIEW TO BALCONY UPGRADE	COMPLIMENTARY FLIGHT & HOTEL STAY IN SAN FRANCISCO	CRUISE ON BOARD THE BRAND-NEW QUEEN ANNE

Settle in for a spellbinding voyage on board Cunard's newest Queen, including an overnight in New York and a two-night San Francisco hotel stay.

In Southampton, you'll embark the regal Queen Anne, the newest ship in Cunard's illustrious history. Discover cutting-edge facilities combined with timeless service, exceptional fine dining and dazzling entertainment. Dance the night away in the Queens Room and enjoy afternoon tea served by white-gloved waiters.

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Queen Anne

Gracing the seas in early 2024, Queen Anne is the finest ship of her era. Modern yet timeless, you'll relish a sense of occasion and classic Cunard opulence, from its elegant staterooms and lavish bars to its soothing spa.

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- 26 night full-board cruise on board the BRAND-NEW Queen Anne
- **Visiting:** Southampton, New York (overnight in port), Oranjestad, Panama Canal (scenic cruising), Puerto Quetzal, Cabo San Lucas, San Francisco (overnight in port)
- Cunard boasts some of the most spacious staterooms at sea, and each one comes with a myriad of services, features, and amenities for you to enjoy
- Highlights include signature Cunard entertainment, plus a wealth of new breathtaking experiences

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- 2 night four-star stay in San Francisco at the Stanford Court Hotel

Complimentary Inbound Flight & Transfers

- London arrival – regional flights available

INSIDE FROM	OCEANVIEW FROM	BALCONY FROM	GRILL SUITE FROM
£3,699PP	£5,499PP	£5,499PP	£11,999PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: AME7846

Cruise the
Panama Canal

Witness a marvel of engineering as you glide through the Panama Canal. This scenic cruise offers a front-row seat to this impressive feat of human endeavour that connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Flanking the canal, lush rainforest teems with tropical wildlife as massive ships float through a series of locks. Watch out for colourful toucans and American crocodiles during this once-in-a-lifetime crossing.

Spirited TV doc a tonic for the soul

Pictures: GETTY; REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

FAST FOOD FAN: Mosley followed intermittent fasting diets

Michael Mosley

Doctor and broadcaster

BORN MARCH 22, 1957 – DIED JUNE 5, 2024, AGED 67

WITH his exuberant manner and insatiable desire for knowledge, Dr Michael Mosley became one of Britain's most trusted names on diet, fitness and wellbeing. Driven by a pre-occupation with longevity and healthy living – he was determined to reverse the Type 2 diabetes he developed in 2012 and which had contributed to his father's death at 74 – Mosley delighted in pushing scientific boundaries and enthusing audiences with his discoveries.

The broadcaster, writer and podcaster became a disciple of intermittent fasting after learning about the benefits of the 5:2 diet for the 2012 BBC Horizon programme Eat, Fast And Live Longer.

He wrote a follow-up book with journalist Mimi Spencer, subsequently championing the Fast 800 diet, which combines fasting with a ketogenic diet that is high in fats and low in carbohydrates.

No idea was considered too wacky or dangerous, with Mosley swallowing tapeworms to monitor the parasites' effects on his body and injecting snake venom to see how it would clot his blood.

He put human behaviour under the microscope on 2017 BBC show Meet The Humans, when he secretly observed strangers meeting in a country home.

Michael Mosley was born in India to Hong Kong banker Bill Mosley and Joan, the daughter of an Anglican bishop. He and his brother attended boarding school in England, at the insistence of a father who wanted his children to follow his career path.

"Quite religious" in his youth, Mosley had considered becoming a priest until he turned 20. He read philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford and spent two years as a banker before studying medicine.

He met his wife Clare Bailey, who became a GP, at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School.

Mosley had designs on becoming a psychiatrist until he realised "how little could really be done for people with mental illness".

In 1985, he successfully applied for a BBC trainee assistant producer scheme. His first full-length project was 1994 Horizon documentary Ulcer Wars, in which Dr Barry Marshall infected himself with an ulcer to prove they were caused by an infection, not stress. It was the inspiration for Mosley's gonzo-style investigations and he then turned presenter on many shows including the BBC's Trust Me, I'm A Doctor.

Mosley was reported missing on the Greek island of Symi where he collapsed after walking in extreme heat. An initial inquest determined he died of natural causes.

He is survived by Clare and their four children Alex, Jack, Dan and Kate.

Law legend batted away critics

Oliver Popplewell

High Court judge

BORN AUGUST 15, 1927 – DIED JUNE 6, 1924, AGED 96

HIGH-profile judge Sir Oliver Popplewell presided over the libel case brought by Jonathan Aitken against The Guardian newspaper which eventually led to the former minister's imprisonment for perjury.

The Guardian, opposed to Popplewell's decision to conduct the case without jury, claimed that during the trial he had fallen asleep – an allegation he always denied.

But it was this rumour that led to the senior judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court being immortalised in Private Eye as Mr Justice Popplecarrot.

Popplewell chaired the inquiry into the Bradford City stadium fire, and was widely reported for asking "What is Linford's lunchbox?" when presiding over a case brought by athlete Linford Christie.

A former first-class cricketer, Popplewell also served as president of the MCC, and after retiring from the bench became possibly the oldest undergraduate ever to attend the University of Oxford, aged 79.

Oliver Bury Popplewell was born to two civil servants and grew up in Pinner. As a Charterhouse scholar he played cricket alongside – and had a higher batting average than – future England captain PBH May.

RESPECTED: Popplewell

While on National Service with the Royal Navy, Popplewell began studying for the Bar, and took the first part of his exams while patrolling the Palestinian coast. He read law at Cambridge and gained a cricketing Blue as part of a team featuring five English test players.

He was called to the bar in 1951, took silk in 1959, was appointed Recorder of Burton-on-Trent in 1971 and was elevated to the High Court in 1983.

When his 18-year-old godson Stephen Fry ran away with a stolen credit card, Popplewell defended him and helped cut his jail sentence to a matter of months, allowing Fry to sit the Cambridge scholarship.

The judge had five sons with wife Margaret. One died in infancy. His son Nigel became a cricketer who made more than 200 appearances for Somerset. Another, Andrew, represented Roman Abramovich against Boris Berezovsky, and became a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal.

After Margaret died Popplewell wed Dame Elizabeth Gloster, who survives him along with his sons.

Alice Munro

Author

BORN JULY 10, 1931 – DIED MAY 13, 2024 AGED 92

CANADIAN Alice Munro was considered a master of the short story form. The winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Literature was likened to Anton Chekhov during her six decades of writing for her concise prose and insight into the human condition.

Munro set most of her stories, often about womanhood and relationships, in rural Ontario, publishing 13 collections of stories and the novel Lives Of Girls And Women.

She won the Man Booker International Prize in 2009 for her life's work. Her final collection of stories, Dear Life, was published in 2012.

Munro died after suffering with dementia for 12 years. She is survived by her three daughters by her first marriage to James Munro.

Her second husband, Gerald Fremlin, died in 2013.

Françoise Hardy

Singer-songwriter

BORN JANUARY 17, 1944 – DIED JUNE 11, 2024, AGED 80

FRANÇOISE Hardy's beauty and self-penned melancholic songs made her the standout star of France's yé-yé (yeah-yeah) pop movement, a style inspired by 1960s British and American artists.

After her international breakthrough in 1962 with Tous Les Garçons Et Les Filles (All The Girls And Boys), she had hits with Mon Amie La Rose (My Friend The Rose) and Comment Te Dire Adieu (It Hurts To Say Goodbye).

Hardy's sad melodies and shyness gave her an air of mystery and stars were besotted with her. She was considered Bob Dylan's muse, David Bowie was "passionately in love with her" and Mick Jagger called her his ideal woman.

She collaborated with various artists, including Blur and Iggy Pop, and last year Rolling Stone ranked her at No.162 on its list of the 200 Greatest Singers of All Time.

Chanteuse: Françoise

Françoise Madeleine Hardy was born in Paris. Her mother, an accountant, had two daughters with married lover Étienne Dillard. He had little contact with Françoise and her sister Michèle, who developed schizophrenia and took her own life in 2004.

Hardy's childhood was unhappy. She felt the stigma of her mother's single parenthood at her Catholic school, and later attributed this to lifelong feelings of insecurity.

Her fortunes changed when she was 16. She was given a guitar, and began writing the wistful lyrics for which she became known.

The singer signed a record contract in 1961 and represented France at the 1963 Eurovision Song Contest, finishing fifth. She recorded her last album in 2018, writing about mortality in the face of her 2004 lymphoma diagnosis.

She died after battling laryngeal cancer and is survived by husband Jacques Dutronc, from whom she was separated, and their son Thomas.

Written by KAT HOPPS and ROSIE HENDERSON

EXCLUSIVE

By Rob Crossan

Make a Father's Day by taking him seriously

The number of stay-at-home dads in the UK is rocketing, but there are concerns the medical establishment is still too quick to sideline them in favour of mothers when it comes to complex care needs for their offspring. Michael Day, who looks after three children while his wife works full-time, makes a plea for greater understanding

MICHAEL Day's typically non-stop morning is one almost every full-time parent will relate to. "I was up at seven in order to get the children dressed, which is a battle in itself," he tells me from his home in Sandy, Bedfordshire. "Then we have breakfast and I give Zeb his meds. Then we leave for school.

"I drop Elodie at nursery, Isaiah at school and then take Zeb to his parents-and-tots group. I stay with him for that session, then I might get five minutes for a coffee before going home, but only if Zeb and I don't have any more medical appointments. Then, before you know it, the school pick-up run begins."

The former locksmith stays at home to look after his three children – including two-year-old Zeb who was born with an extra vessel in his heart and has complex medical needs – while his wife Jordan works full-time as a nursery school practitioner.

So far, so familiar, you might think. After all, the number of stay-at-home dads in the UK has leapt by a third since before the pandemic. One in nine stay-at-home parents are now fathers – up from one in 14 in 2019, according to Office for National Statistics data. The number of dads who had left the workforce to look after their family rose by a third over the same period.

Yet, though being a stay-at-home dad is increasingly common in 21st-century Britain, Michael believes it is still looked down upon.

And, speaking ahead of Father's Day tomorrow, the 31-year-old tells why his own position as a dad somehow saw him sidelined in the eyes of some medical practitioners after youngest child Zeb's birth nearly three years ago.

"It's tough, as it's still, genuinely, seen as a bit odd to be the primary parent," Michael admits. "But my advice to other men in the same situation is just to plough on. You're doing the right thing. You're doing it for your child.

"Sometimes I really don't want to be the only bloke in a parent-and-child group. I stick out like a sore thumb. But as long as Zeb is having a good time, it's worth it. And that's the thing you have to think about before anything else.

"But it's sad that, in 2024, as a society, it's still considered a bit weird that dad stays at home. I'd love it to be more normalised."

The couple had no inkling anything was wrong with their youngest son until they were due to find out his sex.

"Because of Covid I was waiting outside until I was asked to suddenly come in – I knew instantly something was wrong," recalls Michael.

"The sonographer said our baby boy had an extra vessel in his heart.

"We didn't know what that actually meant, and I remember feeling confused and scared – for me, my wife, and our unborn baby."

Michael and Jordan were told their unborn son had been diagnosed with TAPVD, which stands for Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Drainage. They were warned there was a high chance of him not surviving long after birth. So, rather than preparing to bring their son home, the couple were heartbreakingly putting plans in place for a funeral.

"We were preparing ourselves for the worst whilst hoping for the best," Michael says. "The whole time, I felt the pull between the support I knew my wife needed and the time my children needed at home. I didn't have time to think about my own feelings."

CARING TOUCH: Michael and son Zeb shortly after his birth

Zeb – full name Zebulan – was subsequently born by C-section and the next ten weeks was a whirlwind of tests, procedures, and separate heart and brain surgeries.

"He didn't know life outside the hospital walls," says Michael. "It was chaos and, looking back, I don't know how I managed to stretch myself in so many ways for everyone that needed me. But as a husband and a father, that's what we 'have' to do, right?"

Amid the confusion and worry, Michael began to feel he was being sidelined in any discussions about Zeb's condition with doctors, nurses, consultants and surgeons. Far from being treated as the father of a desperately sick child, Michael increasingly had the sensation of being an invisible man.

"I don't think it was a deliberate marginalisation from doctors and surgeons," he says. "I think they did it without realising. I remember that I'd taken Zeb to Great Ormond Street for an MRI scan. Everyone there seemed to be fine.

"I felt I'd just signed Zeb's life away by accepting the risks they told me were potential consequences of the general anaesthetic they had to give Zeb. Then Jordan arrived and I was immediately completely ignored."

Michael's calm, quiet demeanour is immediately apparent when speaking to him. Perhaps this accounts for the willingness of medics to address Zeb's mother rather than him?

But it increasingly made him feel as though his presence and voice didn't count. "I didn't speak up. In that sort of situation, I was just sort of shocked. I asked myself, 'Why am I now invisible?' I try not to cause confrontation so, at first, my attitude was, 'It is what it is. I must accept I'm second place'," he sighs. "In my head it was easier to just accept it."

TODAY Michael understands there are reasons why questions about Zeb and how the family was coping were directed at his wife. But, as a dad, he felt shut out – like his voice didn't matter.

He admits there never was a moment he "broke" and began to fight back, although he did find an outlet for his feelings by confiding in Zeb's dedicated complex care nurse, who was shocked at his experience.

"She checks in with us whenever Zeb has had an [hospital] admission and, on one occasion, I told her I was fed up," says Michael.

"It had been a week of Zeb being in hospital, I had been cold-shouldered by doctors and she was quite shocked to find that this is still happening, even today, to fathers. She ended

S

PRECIOUS FAMILY TIME: Michael and Jordan Day, with, from left, Elodie, Isaiah and two-year-old Zeb who has complex medical needs

up taking my thoughts to the chief nurse of her hospital trust to raise awareness."

Michael's desire to be heard as Zeb's father was finally realised when the family began working with Keech Hospice Care, which provides specialist support for children and adults living with lifelong medical conditions.

"Initially, the word 'hospice' filled me with dread, but I soon discovered that Keech was not just a place for the end," he said.

"It's a sanctuary, a place where we can relax as a family and feel comfortable with our surroundings. Their philosophy is that Zeb isn't just our patient but the whole family is under their care. I see other dads there and there is just a whole family dynamic."

With Zeb now nearly three years old and in his father's daily care, Michael is now facing the stigma, familiar to many stay-at-home fathers, of being one of the only men at the school gates or at playgroups.

Yet he relates, with understandable pride, that Zeb is now well enough to go to a mainstream nursery this September. It will be the first time Zeb will be left without Michael in a non-clinical environment.

Zeb's heart surgeons are happy with his progress, but his long-term prognosis is still relatively unknown. "It's slow and steady wins the race," adds Michael.

A lover of musical toys and playing with his older brother and sister, the little boy's strength and courage seems to mirror that of Michael, who urges other men to speak up in order to avoid being made to feel that fathers are only of secondary importance when it comes to their children's health.

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing," Michael concludes ahead of Father's Day tomorrow.

"I wish I'd spoken up earlier. Zeb's care is so important and, as his father, I know how helpful it is now to be more vocal. All fathers should be saying, 'I am here. I do matter'. As fathers we need to be listened to."

● *More info on the work that Keech Hospice Care does with children, adults and families can be found at keech.org.uk*

'I PUT IT DOWN TO A KIND OF REVERSE SEXISM...'

MOTHER: Jordan Day wants dads to be appreciated

THE DAY after Zeb was born, he needed life-saving surgery and Michael had to sign his life away. I wasn't there. I was in another hospital recovering from the C-section and there was absolutely no issue with his dad giving his permission.

It was only when we came back to our local hospital that we began to see the way the medical staff tended to talk to me rather than Michael, addressing questions and comments to me rather than both of us. I put it down to a kind of reverse sexism; because I'm Zeb's mum, I must be the correct person to talk to. But there's really no reason for this, we're a team and especially now Michael's a stay-at-home dad while I'm out working, he's responsible for the majority of Zeb's daily medications and care.

It took me a while to notice how Michael was being ignored or sidelined. Doctors would stand in front of Michael while talking to me, or just launch into an update before he had arrived. Now I ask them to wait for my husband.

I don't think it's malicious in any way but the medical profession needs to understand the importance of both parents to children with medical needs.

JORDAN DAY

Puzzled?

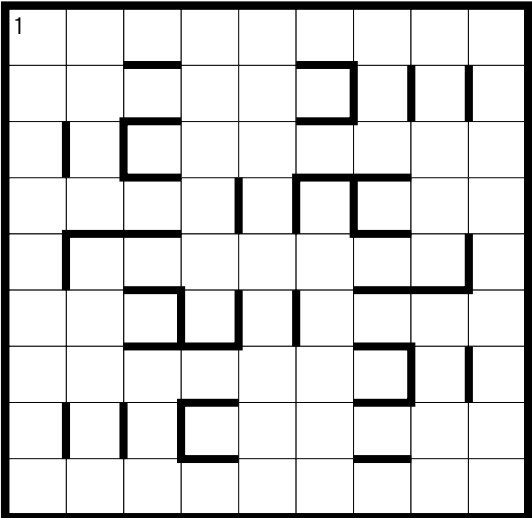
PROBLEMS TO TEST YOUR BRAIN POWER

MAKE YOU VERY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Foretold (9)
Yields (7)
Cutting tool (3)
Bumpy (6)
Appear (4)
Leaving a job (9)
Not long ago (6)
Large number (7)
Arid regions (7)
Hot drink (3)
Flutter (4)

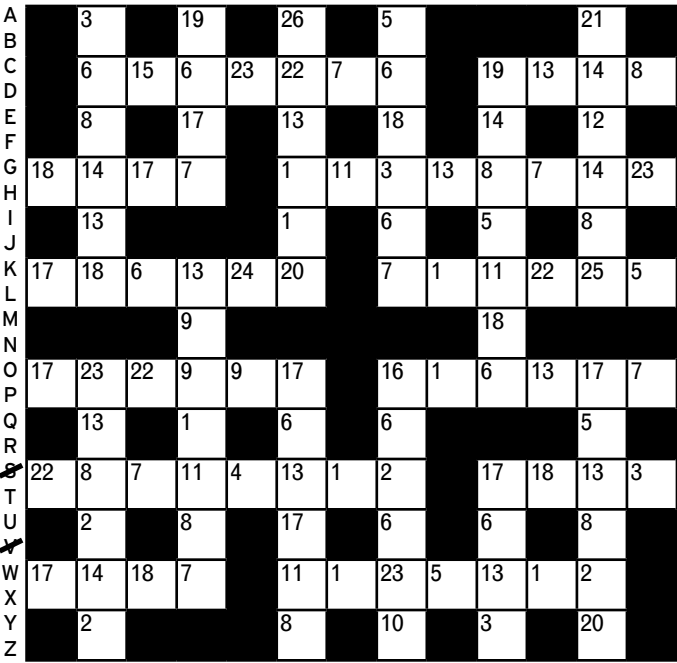
DOWN

1 Academic (9)
Consumed (5)
Actual (4)
Pale purple (5)
Main grids (anag.) (9)
With profundity (6)
Anthony _, former PM (4)
Offensive (9)
Public transport vehicle (3)
Road-making material (3)
Use one's ears (6)

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2581

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION
ACROSS Overlooks, Veneer, Handler, Roar, Lav, Sweated, Own, Aide, Welfare, Invest, Residence.
DOWN Overpower, Veto, Reared, Lend a hand, Oil, Knead, Serviette, Starve, Swede, Disc, Les.

**SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390*

ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution next Saturday.**
Difficulty: 8/10 **Target:** 25 mins
Clue: Lambast U.S. city between two sizes.

THINKING SPACE

For up to six Extra Letter clues:
0907 181 2567*
(deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard)

Today's full solution: **0907 181 2566***
*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DSXALPHA** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

Last Saturday's solution:
Across: Flourish, Attach, Cruise, Cricket, Barge, Coax, Cat, Mow, Dine, Amuse, Healthy, Queued, Tribal, Firework.
Down: Backchat, Larva, Ceramic (clue), Respect, Half, Crazily, Hair, Measure, Jackdaw, Spear, Hothouse.

CAN YOU TACKLE THE EXTRA TOUGH ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE® IN THE SUNDAY EXPRESS EVERY WEEK?

PENTALETTA

Can you find 25 or more words containing only the five letters shown on the left? Each word must include the letter in the centre, in this case I, and must contain at least four letters, but there is no limit on the number of times you can use a letter in any word. Your list should include a disagreeable eight-letter word.

Average mark: 21 words • **Good:** 26 words
Excellent: 32 words • **Incredible:** 35 words

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION gigging, ginning, going, gong, goon, gown, gowning, ingoing, inning, ninon, noggin, nogging, noon, ongoing, onion, owing, owning, wigging, wing, winging, wining, winning, winnow, wino, wooing, wowing.
The clued word was: WINNOWING

SUDOKU

9							5	
	2		5	6	1		3	
		1				2		
		2		7			8	
1	8		6		9		2	3
	7			4		1		
		5				3		
6			4	2	8		9	7
7	9							2

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9.
Level: Moderate
Target: 24 mins

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

5	9	4	2	8	6	3	1	7
7	2	3	9	5	1	4	6	8
8	1	6	3	4	7	2	9	5
6	8	5	7	9	3	1	4	2
3	7	9	4	1	2	8	5	6
1	4	2	8	6	5	7	3	9
9	5	8	1	7	4	6	2	3
2	6	1	5	3	8	9	7	4
4	3	7	6	2	9	5	8	1

For extra clues call:
0901 322 5603
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

For today's full solution
call: 0907 181 2575
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE Lisa Wild

RUPERT AT ROCKY BAY No 29

Then, as they walk along, they find,
That Grandpa has changed his mind.

All the way to the station the old Collector walks ahead and urges Grandpa Mouse to stay for a week. At last the ancient mouse gives way. "It's all a puzzle to me," he says. "You say that my Rastus saved your life and that he caught a crab, and now he has got me a free holiday – and yet at home I've never known him to do anything sensible, much less clever. Anyway, I'll telegraph for our clothes to be sent down." Rupert smiles cheerfully at the old Collector. "This is super of you!" he cries.

"Great," laughs Rupert. "Now we two,
Will find such lovely things to do."

THE SUNSHINE PUZZLE

The Sunshine Puzzle has been a firm favourite with readers of the Express for many years. All you need to do is find the correct home for the listed words. We have helped you by placing two. Here are the words that go into the grid:

AMASS
BREAD
EIDER
EVOKE
GLASS
INANE
ROOTS
SERGE
SPOUT
TEENS
TOTED
TUTTI
AMUSING
DISSENT
GENESIS
MUSTARD
PUDDING
REPRESS
RIBCAGE
SOPPING
ANOMALOUS
ARTHRITIS
BOATSWAIN
EXONERATE
MISGOVERN
NARCISSUS
PLENTEOUS
RUNNERS-UP
SPAGHETTI
SUBSTANCE
SWEATSHOP
UPSETTING

For today's solution call: **0907 181 2584**

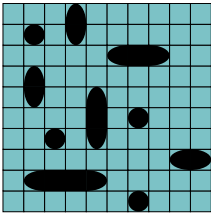
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS Twin bed, Sultana, Avail, Strung out, Good, Cover, Bare, Sepia, Dangerous, Surrender, Easel, Abet, Filch, Omen, Italicise, Ounce, Ginseng, Steward. **DOWN** Tear gas, Imago, Bulk, Discord, Surgeon, Lung, Anomalous, Actress, Jaded, Jewel, Porcelain, Awe, Shading, De-icing, Rickets, Linseed, Manna, Wipe, Done.

THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 7; INTERMEDIATE = 234; ADVANCED = 629.

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in "s" permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 15; very good 22; excellent 29 (or more). Solution next Saturday.

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

epee leper neep peel peeler peen peer pellet pelt pent pert peter petrel preen repel **REPELLENT** repent replete tepee terpene

Call **0907 181 2586** for today's Target solution

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. All puzzles use The Chambers Dictionary*

SMALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Physical activity (8)
6 Large bag (4)
8 Alternative (5)
11 Hypothesis (6)
12 Particle (4)
14 Football umpire (abbr.) (3)
15 Separate bit or part (5)
16 Slack (3)
17 Organs of sight (4)
19 Bloomers, cobs, etc. (6)
20 Begin (5)
21 Entrance or way in (4)
22 Orations (8)

DOWN
1 Set up (9)
2 Reflected sound (4)
3 Work together (9)
4 Timid (3)
5 Serf poses (anag.) (9)
7 Draw towards (7)
9 Vestige (5)
10 World's highest mountain (7)
13 Insignificant (5)
18 Casual affirmative word (4)
19 Circuit (3)

For today's solution call: **0907 181 2583**

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Accusing, 6 Door, 8 Trout, 11 Borrow, 12 Asks, 14 See, 15 Ponds, 16 Cry, 17 Step, 19 Pieces, 20 Needs, 21 Vase, 22 Mattered.
DOWN 1 Advancing, 2 Cook, 3 Strangest, 4 Now, 5 Attempted, 7 Observe, 9 Roads, 10 Useless, 13 Solid, 18 Tear, 19 Pea.

CRUSADER CROSSWORD

WIN £100

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £100 CASH read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word

ACROSS
1 Forlorn man getting ring after the expected time (8)
5 It's about girl, negligent (6)
10 Exciting all those lads, his antique (2,3,2,3,5)
11 Showing diplomacy, one with French article relating to touch (7)
12 Disconcert some runner verbally (7)
13 It's understood when assembled (8)
15 Artist's standing frame from European sale, possibly (5)
18 Characteristic attitudes initially encountered by Thomas (5)
20 Sponge used for messy rugs once (8)
23 Neal, hot, ordered alcohol (7)
25 Wise man going round America with food item (7)
26 Fat buck out there spoilt film (4,2,3,6)
27 Engineers, kind, from popular holiday destination (6)
28 A fellow eloquent and rich (8)

DOWN
1 Unexpected thread shortage (6)
2 Dawdler, small, with miserable trainer (9)
3 The French head of department with plate behaving like some young men (7)
4 Flavour of snack originally found in gallery (5)
6 With directions, he can possibly improve (7)
7 Layabout I'd left with hesitation (5)
8 Nurse extremely likely to be like a sibling (8)
9 Part of the body of bear (8)
14 Determined to cook sole? True (8)
16 Strange giant sure to produce autograph (9)
17 Don't forget about leg (8)
19 US politician upsetting one star (7)
21 Strange French one with us initially upset man (7)
22 Respectable journalist turning up with coin (6)
24 Mediocre writers wanting chops (5)
25 She left fellow to create ledge (5)

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight tonight. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, June 15, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by June 17 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight tonight. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues!
Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Weekly Crusader Crossword Winner
26 May – 1 June: C Wilson, Broadstairs, Kent.
Please allow 30 days for prizes to arrive

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Left-wing, 5 Bunkum, 10 Snake in the grass, 11 Overtly, 12 Stamina, 13 Foreseen, 15 Elude, 18 Ankle, 20 Pathetic, 23 Marches, 25 Correct, 26 Self-consciously, 27 Nicely, 28 Repelled.
DOWN 1 Lesson, 2 Framework, 3 Wrestle, 4 Nanny, 6 Upgrade, 7 Khaki, 8 Mistaken, 9 Chestnut, 14 Exposing, 16 Universal, 17 Parmesan, 19 Ethical, 21 Earlobe, 22 Stayed, 24 Relic, 25 Cache. **Prizeword:** Fritillary.

THE ALPHABEATER

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? It's a tough twist on our popular Alphapuzzle, designed to stretch your mental muscles to the limit. Each grid number below represents a letter or a black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But now you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and the given black squares below the main grid to start.

To add to the fiendish fun, Alphabeater is 'rotationally symmetrical'. In other words the grid is the same if you turn the page upside down.

So, for example if there is a six-letter word Across which starts in the top left corner, there will be a corresponding six-letter word Across which ends in the bottom right corner square.

Every black square has a symmetrical 'twin' but the 'twin' may not always share the same number. This can help identify other black squares. Of course if the centre square is black it has no corresponding 'twin'. Solution next Saturday.

A ~~B~~ C ~~D~~ E ~~F~~ G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

7	33	8	10	6	37	16	39	18	20	25	10	5
37	14	19	26	17	22	39	24	12	23	39	8	1
35	1	24	30	23	9	5	6	2	24	19	39	38
18	17	25	19	13	12	23	7	24	30	31	14	33
14	36	17	34	40	23	16	12	32	8	21	26	28
10	22	9	8	18	8	2	38	32	23	24	29	6
24	5	2	23	24	11	28	8	23	13	9	22	34
1	17	27	14	38	18	40	31	37	1	26	25	14
10	25	19	29	37	3	19	1	5	6	17	20	29
14	23	11	28	33	24	23	14	29	40	2	23	21
32	24	2	17	32	8	22	16	14	4	12	8	7
35	12	15	15	8	23	13	21	17	2	40	15	16
40	29	26	11	21	11	9	38	34	8	36	14	33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	■													F					

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
										D				B					■

Target Time: 32 minutes

Today's full solution
0907 181 2557
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2559

Call for up to six extra letter clues. (Deduct three minutes for each extra letter heard.) Callers will also be given two black square numbers free of any target time penalty.

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DSXBEAT** to **64343.**
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

Black squares: 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25, 28, 30, 32, 35, 39. **Across:** Spring, Onion, Rebuff, Bonsai, Zillions, Buoyantly, Dwelling, Hernia, Outgun, Vowel, Quacks. **Down:** Tombs, Haddock, Nimble, Joys, Gnu, Fizzy, Ionic, Rural, Night, Nab, Rook, Oxygen, Infused, Vault.

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Linda J. feefo

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Head Gardener & Plant Expert

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Peter McDermott, Head Gardener *Peter*

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PLEASE SEND TO: **Offer DX247, YouGarden, PO Box 1468, Peterborough, PE1 9XL**

YOUR ORDER DETAILS

Item	Description	Price	Qty	Subtotal
100085	**Blooming Fast Superior Soluble Fertiliser 100g** FREE with every order **WORTH £4.99!**	FREE		
561198	**Hardy Gerbera 'Garvinea' Sweet collection** **Buy 3 Get 3 FREE – SAVE £14.99!** Supplied as 6 established plants in 7cm pots	£14.99		
These SPECIAL OFFERS go perfectly with your Hardy Gerbera 'Garvinea'!				
410060	**Gazania 'Tiger Stripes Mix'** 10 Garden Ready Plants **SAVE £6.00**	£6.99		
You Must Use Offer Code **DX247** To Get These Exclusive Prices!		P&P		£6.99
		TOTAL ORDER VALUE		

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Or charge my Visa / Mastercard:

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Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss ____ Initial ____

Surname ____

Address ____

Postcode ____

Email ____

Tel ____

DREAM GARDENS

titchmarsh@express.co.uk

with ALAN TITCHMARSH

Heads will roll

Done properly, a deadheading session brings endless rewards

There is something depressing about the thought of "deadheading". Perhaps the fault lies in the name. But when it comes to pottering about in the garden it's one of the more pleasurable pursuits, and one of the most worthwhile.

Deadheading involves the removal of faded flowers from shrubs and border perennials. Not only will it make the garden look a darned sight tidier, it also encourages many plants to produce a second flush of flowers.

With plants, continuation of the species is their sole aim in life, so they regard the production of seeds as their primary reason for being. Snip off flowers before seeds have a chance to form and the plant knows it has not fulfilled its destiny. Result? More flowers. Neat, eh?

With repeat-flowering roses, don't content yourself with the removal of each faded flower.

Once the entire cluster has faded, cut back the shoot that carried them by six or nine inches to where the stem is of pencil thickness. Cutting back this far ensures a more vigorous second flowering shoot will emerge from the bud in the angle of the leaf you cut above. A stem that isn't cut back quite so far is thinner, will not have the same energy and fewer flowers will appear, even though they may appear faster.

Delphiniums and lupins cannot be guaranteed to produce a second flush as large and generous as the first, but even they may produce smaller spires of flower if dead-headed, rather than spending energy producing seeds on ugly spires of green pods surrounded by desiccated petals.

Giving the plants a good feed is useful at this stage. A generous sprinkling of blood, fish and bone, or rose fertiliser, will give them energy after a spring that had its fair share of rain to wash out soil nutrients.

> Plants know they've not fulfilled their destiny so the result is more flowers

Even bedding plants (aside from those with the tiniest blooms) will benefit from being picked over to relieve them of faded flowers. A weekly dose of dilute liquid tomato feed can be given to all plants in containers, be they pots, troughs, window boxes or baskets, to keep them in fine fettle.

So do your bit to keep them coming right through the summer.

PLANT of the week

Achillea

A cultivated relative of the feathery-leaved weed yarrow, border varieties of achillea are spectacular, with large, flat-topped saucer-shaped heads of flowers in yellow, red or pink growing on 3-4ft tall stems and delicate ferny foliage. They have a long flowering season from June to September, and make superb cut flowers, but they can also be dried. The best known cultivars are "Cloth of Gold" (pale yellow), "Fanal" (red) and "Cerise Queen" (shocking pink), but perhaps the most spectacular is the giant "Gold Plate", which stands 5ft tall with bold yellow heads of flower.

Easy to grow and reliable, achillea thrives in any reasonable garden soil, in full sun, and doesn't suffer as badly in a dry summer as many traditional perennials.

GARDENER'S DIARY

Your weekly gardening to-do list

- Plant warmth-loving peppers, chillies, aubergines, cucumbers and cantaloupe melons in an unheated greenhouse or walk-in polytunnel. If you plan to grow them outdoors, save your warmest, most sheltered corner of the patio and delay planting them for another week or two.
- Don't worry if fruit trees shed some small fruit, it's the 'June drop' – nature's way of thinning excess crops so what's left grows to a good size.
- During dry spells, water soft fruit canes, bushes and wall-trained fruit trees that are carrying crops.
- Thin out oxygenating water plants if they choke your pond.

SPOTLIGHT ON... Cut flowers

If you have a flower arranger in the family take a tip from me – when they're looking for something to cut, go round the garden with them.

Make sure you take charge of the secateurs. The thing is flower arrangers see plant material in a very different light from gardeners.

While they are looking for the perfect bloom with every petal just-so, no nibbled leaves and a long, straight stem that'll look just right in a vase you know very well that they'll take everything suitable within easy reach, leaving you with butchered borders.

A bit of care minimises the impact on appearances and encourages plants to be more prolific. It also does wonders for domestic harmony.

Before cutting, stop, look and check out all the likely blooms. For longest vase life they should be freshly opened and not quite fully out, with no imperfections on petals or foliage and with stems of a suitable length.

They don't always have to be long or entirely straight, it just depends on the style of arrangement and shape of the vase.

Look all round the plant and try to choose a suitable flower round the back where a small gap won't show. Don't cut a whole bunch from the same plant, instead thin out several plants. And stop when you've cut as much as you need.

TRAVEL

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Close to The Edge

Rock 'n' roll, rattlesnakes and Joshua trees. **Marion McMullen** embarks on a great American road trip

The stark, alien-looking Joshua trees on the artwork of U2's classic album left a lasting impression on me from the moment I first saw them. The black and white photos looked like the Irish band had landed on another planet and I longed to have my own close encounter with the strange trees one day.

Jump forward 37 years since the album came out and I finally found myself in the Mojave Desert at the Joshua Tree National Park, surrounded by nearly 800,000 acres dominated by the haunting trees.

Surrounded by granite monoliths, and eye-catching rock and boulder formations, I could see mile after mile of Joshua trees, each one casting its own distinctive shadow on the landscape. All it needed was Bono, The Edge and co to turn up to provide a quick burst of With Or Without You or I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For. It's no surprise the Joshua tree proved so inspiring.

The Bungalows at Retreat by Homestead Modern (retreat.homesteadmodern.com) are situated on the grounds of the Joshua

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

LANDMARK U2's Joshua Tree album

EERIE Joshua Tree National Park

Cruise news

BY **NIGEL THOMPSON**

Howzat for a cruise? Ambassador has padded up for a winter no-fly sailing that will bring back the summer joy of leather on willow.

Ambition slips her moorings at Tilbury, Essex, on December 12 for a seven-night Cricketing Legends trip featuring former Essex and England captain, Graham Gooch, ex-Surrey, Essex and England all-rounder Alex Tudor as well as Test Match Special hosts Jonathan Agnew and Henry Blofeld.

The itinerary covers Amsterdam, Antwerp and Honfleur with Rouen as the final leg before heading back to Tilbury, with talks, quizzes, Q&As and extras from the cricketing guests.

Fares from £611 per person, with a second passenger an appealing half-price if booking before July 10. ambassadorcruiseline.com

BIG DEAL

First World War battlefields from £549pp: Depart by coach from points across England and Wales on May 16, 2025 for a four-day escorted tour to sights including Passchendaele, and Flanders Fields Museum. Stay in Ypres near Menin Gate. legerbattlefields.co.uk

Air update

BY **VICKY LISSAMAN**

As it gears up to celebrate its Ruby Anniversary, Virgin Atlantic has announced its return to Canada – its first route there in more than a decade.

Direct daily flights will link London Heathrow with Toronto from March 30. Fares start at £490.

■ Holidaymakers will be able to take off to Tenerife from London Southend from next May with the launch of a new route by easyJet.

Package deals from Southend to the largest Canary Island are also now on sale with easyJet holidays.

Marc Taylor, acting CEO for London Southend Airport, said: "Tenerife has been in very high demand across our 8.2m catchment. There are six trains every hour from central London to Southend Airport Station and we offer budget-friendly holidays to more than 15 sought-after locations in Europe."

Access all

FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES
BY **VICKY LISSAMAN**

Warner Bros Studio Tour London: The Making of Harry Potter is sponsoring three guide dog puppies-in-training as part of a year-long partnership with the charity Guide Dogs.

Named after the leading characters in the film series – Harry, Ron and Hermione – the studio tour's contribution will provide vital support for the dogs.

The tour has welcomed guide and assistance dogs since it opened in 2012, with policies and guides in place to support those

with sight loss or visual impairment, such as audio descriptive tours.

Through the partnership, further changes have been made to enhance the visitor experience including a dedicated doggy toilet area outside. The tour is also planning signage iPads which can be held over signs and descriptions to magnify them. wbstudiotour.co.uk/guide-dogs

Buy of the week

BY **NIGEL THOMPSON**

One of the many deeply annoying impacts of Brexit was the widespread loss of free EU roaming on our phones. However, new deals emerge all the time.

For example, iD Mobile, which piggybacks on Three's 5G network, offers UK monthly allowances of minutes, text and data (up to 30GB) in 50 destinations in Europe and beyond. Its 12-month SIM-only deal for 45GB data and unlimited minutes and texts for £8 with the roaming freebie looks a steal to us. idmobile.co.uk

TRAVEL

TREE ROUTES Marion's Californian road trip

ON THE TRAIL Red Jeep Tour

LARGER THAN LIFE Breceda's sculptures

DESERT VIEW Homestead bungalow

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Tree Retreat Centre and it has been called one of the top hotels in the world.

They have no televisions because the glass walls open out on spectacular views that rival any TV soap or drama. The bungalows cost from around £158 a night and you can simply sit back and relax and watch the sun rise or set. There's even a handy pair of binoculars so you can look out for local wildlife, such as roadrunners.

It's also worth fitting in a meal at the cheerful Copper Room a short drive away before preparing for a journey into the world of the Joshua trees.

Death Valley

My spot of tree-hugging at the Joshua Tree National Park came slap in the middle of a road trip that took in some of the many attractions of Greater Palm Springs. A night at West June LAX (thehoteljune.com/west-los-angeles) was a great way to get over the flight, with costs from around £143 per night.

Next morning it was time to drive to Death Valley, the hottest place in Earth, where a temperature of 57C was once recorded.

The trip goes through Ridgecrest and, if it looks familiar, it might be because part of Top Gun: Maverick was filmed there. There was no sign of Tom Cruise so it was on to The Ranch at Death Valley, with prices from around £158 per night.

With such high temperatures, you need to take precautions when visiting landmarks with enticing names such as Dante's Peak, Badwater Basin and Devil's Golf Course, so-called because it is said "only the devil could play golf on such rough links".

Headgear and lots of water are essential and you need to splash on the highest sun factor you can, but it's all worth it to experience the amazing area that is home to coyotes, mountain lions and, gulp, rattlesnakes.

Part of the third Star Wars movie was filmed on location here and Nichole Andler, chief of interpretation and education at Furnace Creek Visitors Centre, say they now have many European visitors coming in July and August because they want to experience how hot Death Valley is.

> **Surrounded by monoliths, I could see mile after mile of Joshua trees**

It's worth setting the alarm clock to see sunrise at Zabriskie Point when the whole mountain range is bathed in colour. Covering nearly 3.2 million acres, there is plenty to explore, from the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes to the Artist's Palette rocks and the odd ghost town.

Borrego Springs

If you are looking for quirky, charming and unique then head to Borrego Springs.

As you drive into town, you spot dinosaurs, giant scorpions and even a serpent decorating the surrounding areas.

There are more than 130 figures in the Anza Borrego and Galleta Meadows, created by Ricardo Breceda. He apparently started with a dinosaur because his daughter had just seen Jurassic Park and wanted her own dino.

The desert will come alive with flowers too, if you time your visit right.

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Snake, rattle & roll

HOT ROCKS Death Valley

HOT SPOT The Ranch at Death Valley

It is also a dark skies area and if it's not too cloudy you can enjoy the stars at night on a guided walk with knowledgeable expert Mike McElhatton, from the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Society.

There are hummingbirds in the gardens and you can enjoy a bite at Big Horn Burgers & Shakes.

Borrego Valley Inn has prices from around £207 a night and offers breakfast delivered to your door in the morning.

Palm Springs

The Kardashians are among today's famous Palm Springs residents, but the area has also been home to the likes of Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Liberace and Elvis.

Ace Hotel & Swim Club costs from around £165 a night and is a good starting point for exploring the area.

Local entertainment includes drag bingo and a pub quiz with Bella Da Ball, while a Red Jeep Tour offers hikes around the Indian Canyons. It costs from around £159 per person (four people minimum) and Darrell, aka Black Feather, is quick to warn you about not going off the trail because – yep, you guessed it – there are rattlesnakes out there.

Thousands of tarantulas also appear during mating season. You've been warned.

Darrell, who is full of fascinating facts and stories, shrugs off mention of the area's earthquakes, saying: "It's rock 'n' roll all the time here."

A good way to end the day is a meal at Boozehounds bar and restaurant, which lets people bring their pets along to the outdoor area via a doggy door.

HOME TO THE STARS Palm Springs

Coachella

The best part of a road trip is you can stop off to take in so many sights – see the world's tallest thermometer in Baker, visit Route 66 landmarks such as Roy's Motel & Cafe, or spend time at Amboy Crater.

It's also worth paying a visit to Coachella to see the setting of the world-famous music and arts festival. Palm Springs Surf Club is another top destination where you can catch gnarly waves in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. Admission is around £16 for ages five and above booked in advance, or around £19 at the gate.

After all that driving, ease your muscles at The Spa at Sec-he. A day pass is around £115 and includes the Taking of the Waters experience and entry to all the onsite amenities. Or you can book a bathing experience on its own for around £47.

> "Thousands of tarantulas also appear during mating season"

As for the Joshua trees beloved by Bono and U2, Death Valley's Nichole Andler broke the news to me gently.

"They were on the highway to Las Vegas but they died," she said. "They're not there any more."

Seems like I still haven't found what I'm looking for.

GET THERE

Norse Atlantic Airways flies from Gatwick to Los Angeles starting at £361 return, £992 in Premium. flynorse.com

BOOK IT

Entry to Death Valley costs around £23 per private vehicle. Camping reservations must be made at least two days beforehand and can be made up to six months in advance.

■ Entry to Joshua Tree National Park costs around £23 per private vehicle. Camping reservations can be made the same day or up to six months in advance.

■ Car hire costs from around £74 a day.

MORE INFO

visitgreaterpalmsprings.com

Must-see cities on Germany's Euro 2024 trail

FOOTBALLMANIA is kicking off with the Euro 2024 tournament now under way in Germany.

Over the course of a month, teams will do battle in 10 host cities – but there's a great deal more to see.

If you're planning on heading out to soak up the atmosphere, make the most of a trip by exploring what else is on offer. Whatever the outcome, these German cities are real winners.

MUNICH

Within easy reach of the Alps and several lakes, Germany's third largest city has earned a reputation for being laidback and calm.

The centre of the action is Marienplatz square, with buildings constructed in the 12th century. The Neo-Gothic New Town Hall is a highlight.

Celebrate wins and commiserate losses on shared tables in the Hofbrauhaus, the city's famous beer hall, commissioned as a state brewery in the 16th century.

BOOK IT: Doubles at Ruby Rosi hotel start from £100 per night with breakfast. ruby-hotels.com

COLOGNE

Set along the Rhine river, this scenic city is the place to indulge cultural pursuits. There are more than 100 museums, while Museum Ludwig has one of the world's largest Picasso displays. For a more indulgent day out, the Chocolate Museum is an easy contender.

Cologne cathedral is a showstopper and lauded as Germany's most popular landmark. A must see.

BOOK IT: Doubles at Mercure Hotel Koeln Belfortstrasse start from £190 with breakfast. mercure-hotel-koeln-belfortstrasse.de/en

FRANKFURT

Don't let its connection with stocks, shares and banking lead you to believe Frankfurt is boring.

For a view of the buzzy "Mainhattan" skyline – up there with New York City – visit the Eiserner Steg footbridge built in 1869 and used by more than 10,000 pedestrians every day. Head to the top of the glass-fronted Main Tower (the first high-rise building in Europe) or a rooftop bar to watch the sunset.

For cramming several exhibitions into one afternoon, aim for Museum Embankment. Displays are hosted in a collection of historic villas and purpose-built spaces, covering art, architecture, film and even comic books.

BOOK IT: Doubles at Avani Frankfurt City Hotel start from £149, including breakfast. avanihotels.com

LEIPZIG

A hub for alternative subcultures, this city in Saxony has been fondly nicknamed "hypezig".

Priced out of Berlin, artists and DJs have found more affordable former industrial spaces here, creating one of the buzziest underground scenes in Europe. Street art decorates many neighbourhoods, a reflection of the city's rebellious spirit.

A former cotton mill, the Spinnerei hosts art galleries, studios and theatres, while the former machine material testing hall, WERK 2, offers concerts and events. Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse is a destination for vegan cafes and indie shops.

BOOK IT: Capri By Fraser Leipzig aparthotel has studios from £128 per night. frasershospitality.com

SARAH MARSHALL

TRAVEL

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Heaven & Hellenic

A summer jaunt to a Greek island is the stuff holiday dreams are made of. Here's our guide to picking the perfect escape. By **Vicky Lissaman**

AWESOME St Paul's Bay in Rhodes

Best for Families – Crete

The island favourite offers a blend of natural beauty, outdoor activities, family-friendly amenities and food that everyone will love.

Pick from the many hotels geared up for families with kids' clubs and water slides like the Stella Palace Resort & Spa in Analipsi.

When you feel like venturing out there are animal attractions such as Aquaworld Aquarium and Reptile Rescue Centre in Hersonissos and Cretaquarium near Gournes.

Head into the White Mountains and hike the dream-like Samaria Gorge which, according to legend, is the birthplace of Zeus. Try crowd-pleasing Cretan snacks such as kalitsounia – cheese pies drizzled with honey – and gamopilafo, an indulgent buttery risotto.

Couples – Milos

Part of the Cyclades and sitting serenely between the islands of Sifnos and Kimolos, Milos is known for its volcanic landscape, 75 beautiful beaches and geological formations.

Its villages are a maze of narrow streets and whitewashed buildings adorned with colourful flowers. Exploring by boat is a fun way to discover the island's sea caves and beaches.

Its close proximity to Santorini, Mykonos, Paros and Naxos make it an excellent base for island hopping.

And there's an array of boutique hotels across the island – perfect for a romantic getaway.

PLAYTIME Families love Crete

DELICACY Cheese and spinach pies

Foodies – Agistri

On the island of Agistri, in the Saronic Gulf, the waterside tavernas serving fresh-off-the-boat seafood, prepared in traditional Greek styles, are a highlight.

Island specialities include bourdeto, a spicy fish stew, kakavia, a fisherman's soup, and ladenia, a flatbread topped with tomatoes, onions, oregano and olive oil.

Breakfast is a real treat – simple yet hearty with Greek yogurt, honey, nuts, fresh bread, cheese pies and pastries. The beaches are dreamy too, from the secluded bay of Skliri and the picture perfect Mikri Dragonera, to the family friendly Skala and pebbled shores of Megalochori.

History and Culture – Aegina

Not far from Athens and part of the Saronic islands, Aegina is easily accessible by ferry from the port of Piraeus making it a great spot for day trips or weekend getaways. It's bursting with cultural and historical attractions including ancient archaeological sites, Byzantine churches and museums. You can while away the days strolling through the narrow streets of Aegina Town, around its harbour filled with colourful boats, or marvel at the well-preserved 28-column temple, dedicated to the goddess Athena, which is older than the Parthenon in Athens.

Great Value – Zante

There's a huge variety of accommodation options on Zante – or Zakynthos – and package deals to suit all budgets. Olympic Holidays offers amazing deals, with seven nights at the Athina Studios, Tsilivi, from £379 in June including flights.

Zante is known for its local produce such as olive oil, wine, honey, and its traditional sweets such as mandolato and pasteli, which are both inexpensive.

There are plenty of reasonably priced restaurants and tavernas, as well as bakeries and street food stalls.

> **"Exploring by boat is a fun way to discover the sea caves and beaches**

CLASSIC Traditional street in Milos

Watersports – Kefalonia

If you're keen to hit the water, the Ionian island of Kefalonia is the one for you. There's a mix of calm bays, sheltered coves and waves which make it an excellent destination for some wet and wild adventures, whatever your skill level.

Lassi Beach and Makris Gialos Beach are popular for windsurfing and kitesurfing, while Kefalonia's underwater world is teeming with marine life and dive sites.

Stand-up paddleboarding and sea kayaking are hugely popular here and are great ways to explore the coastline and access secluded beaches and sea caves.

Nightlife – Ios

Ios is renowned for its vibrant nighttime scene and attracts visitors from around the world.

Clubs and bars in caves and on clifftops offer unforgettable nights in spectacular locations or you can head to the parties on the beaches, at the poolsides, or in the main square in Ios Town, also known as Chora, which comes alive as the sun goes down.

Mylopotas and Koumbara beaches are two popular spots for dancing and drinking after-dark. By day, you can fill up your insta-feed with shots of the island's dazzling white houses, blue-domed churches, steep hills and sheer cliffs.

Hiking and Cycling – Andros

The northernmost island in the Cyclades, Andros offers outdoor adventures and cultural experiences. Hiking enthusiasts will revel in the diverse landscape with its mountainous villages, fertile valleys, waterfalls and gorges, leading to secluded beaches and abandoned chapels.

The Andros Routes network of trails allows visitors to explore nature paths and stone-paved paths. Cycling is also a great way to explore the island with an extensive network of cycling routes featuring undulating trails, coastal paths and scenic lanes.

Island Hopping – Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonnisos

Island hopping in Greece is a great way to pack in the sights and the Sporades is perfect for this. Set your sights on Skiathos and Alonnisos for an idyllic island-hopping holiday, with a pause at picturesque Skopelos, the island that was catapulted to fame as the backdrop for the movie Mamma Mia! along the way.

Each island has its own character, from the dazzling beaches and bustling Old Town of Skiathos to the tranquil appeal of Alonnisos with its mountain of greenery and aquamarine bays.

TRAILS Andros is a hiker's paradise

STUNNING Kayaks in Kefalonia

Getting away from it all – Halki

This island in the Dodecanese has a land area of just 11 square miles. Close to Rhodes, it is characterised by its simple charm and chilled vibes.

Car-free Nimborio has a pretty harbour and is the island's only inhabited village, featuring Venetian-style houses and tiny alleyways. Its horseshoe shaped bay is lined by waterfront tavernas.

Discover some of the 360 churches, remnants of a medieval castle and Chorio, the island's ancient capital.

Off-season – Rhodes

Visit in spring or autumn for a more tranquil escape. Rhodes basks in 300 days of sun per year and you can take advantage of the milder weather if you're into walking or cycling, when the landscape is lush. Make your money go further in shoulder season as hotel prices drop significantly.

Olympic Holidays feature island-hopping itineraries and more than 40 Greek islands.

olympicholidays.com

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Whether you're looking for drama, in the mood for romance or fancy an all-action adventure, Malta is the destination that puts it all in the frame, all year round.

Its spectacular scenery and historic locations have played a starring role in cinematic big hitters such as Gladiator, Troy and Ridley Scott's recent epic Napoleon. And with 300 days of sunshine a year and Europe's warmest average temperatures, Malta is a guaranteed good-weather getaway that never fluffs its lines.

Boasting three Unesco World Heritage sites – the capital city Valletta, the jaw-dropping Neolithic burial complex Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum, and the megalithic temples of Ggantija – it's no wonder this Mediterranean gem has become a director's dream.

Take a trip to St John's Co-Cathedral and Museum in Valletta and experience one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in all of Europe. Or enjoy a

THE TASTE OF THINGS Food is a big part of Maltese culture

sunset stroll to see the 5,000-year-old Neolithic site of Hagar Qim.

It's not just on land where visitors can find an abundance of history to explore. Head beneath the waves to discover some of the world's most renowned diving sites, including the wreckage of World War II submarine HMS Olympus, resting on the seabed just off the coast of Valletta.

> **"You can drink and dine like Hollywood royalty but without an A-list budget**

If Malta plays the lead role in your visit, then the best supporting award must go to the neighbouring island of Gozo. Notable for a more relaxed pace of life, you'll find blissful beaches to unwind on, clifftop routes to hike and mountain bike trails to explore.

But whatever itinerary you choose, you'll soon discover that food is an important part of the culture here. Sample delicious authentic delicacies and Italian-inspired local cuisine, or visit one of Malta's six Michelin-starred restaurants.

And don't miss the chance to visit the island's vineyards or local craft beer breweries – with the average price of a beer between £1.70 and £2.50, you'll be able to drink and dine like Hollywood royalty, but without the need for an A-lister's budget.

With so much see and do in Malta, having a little help planning your perfect itinerary can make a huge difference to your holiday.

Trailfinders' expert travel consultants often have first-hand experience of the places and attractions they're recommending, so you'll be able to rely on their assistance in devising the perfect script for a sunshine break.

Explore more Malta – visit **trailfinders.com/malta**

MOTORING

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SPORTY SPLICE CENTRE STAGE

Muted applause for the new Vauxhall astra tourer phev

THE FACTS

Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer GSe five-door estate

Price: £44,000
Engine: 1.6-litre petrol, electric motor, 223bhp
0-62mph: 7.5sec
Fuel consumption: 217mpg

Plug-in hybrids have always seemed like a sensible option. An electric range adequate for most daily commutes, school runs and shopping trips yet equipped with a petrol engine for a holiday at the other side of the country.

The caveat is you really need to be able to charge at home because plugging a PHEV into a public charging point is bad form and likely to enrage anyone who was wanting that point to charge their pure EV. Is an extra 25 miles of range worth a black eye?

Many critics of PHEVs say they're a poor compromise because you're carting about the complexity and weight of two powerplants. It's a point, but it seems that many car buyers see the benefits outweigh the negatives because last month sales of PHEVs increased 31.5% over the same month last year.

Private retail sales of pure EVs or BEVs dropped by 2%.

Recently we tested the new Peugeot E-308 SW, sister car to Vauxhall's Astra Electric ST estate. In a rare moment of self control I managed to serve you up a road test of this electric estate car without a full-blown rant on the misery I had on a long journey trying to charge it at public chargers.

Ruined my day. Today we're up north visiting relatives and more suitably equipped. We are in an aforementioned Astra ST estate but this one is a PHEV. We burned up its electric range pretty early on, not managing to achieve the official 35 mile range. Only to be expected as 10 minutes after leaving home we were on a motorway and high speed driving drains the battery.

We're testing the GSe model, the badging of which indicates in Vauxhall's new language a car that's sporty but has electrification. Gone is the VXR tag that referred to its high-performance petrol models. Perhaps Vauxhall will one day make an electric sports car and call it a VXRe.

To give the GSe its sporty identity, engineers have dropped the ride height by 10mm, the Koni shock absorbers have been modified, 18in black alloys fitted, the roof is black as standard and inside there is Alcantara upholstery and a leather steering wheel unique to this car. What is no different is Vauxhall's (and the Stellantis Group's) PHEV powertrain. Standard Astra Tourer PHEVs get a 180PS but in the GSe the 1.6-litre four-cylinder petrol engine and 110PS electric motor produce a combined 225PS.

Plenty good enough to give a top speed of 146mph, 84mph in electric mode and 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds. More than adequate performance figures but they don't turn it into a sports car in sensible clothes. Yes, you can feel the suspension and lower centre of gravity from the lower ride height but the GSe only feels a bit sharper than its more ordinary brothers in the range.

Think of it as a car with more visual sporty character and you won't be disappointed. You might, however, not feel your £44,000 has not been particularly well spent.

Inside, you get something called Pure Panel. It stretches from the A-pillar to the centre of the dashboard and looks rather smart.

There are a good selection of buttons and knobs for heating, ventilation and other oft-used systems, plus a little rest for your thumb that helps when using the touchscreen on a bumpy road. The Alcantara and more sporty seats you get in the GSe add a touch of class.

The Astra estate loses some luggage space because of the 12.kWh battery that lives under the floor, a common compromise in PHEVS, and holds 516 litres with the rear seats in place against the petrol car's 597 litres.

Many feel a PHEV is a good stepping point before committing to a fully electric powertrain and I wouldn't disagree.

Whether I'd spend £44k on the GSe is another question. Unless you're taken with the sporty additions, I'd look at the £40,135 GS-trimmed PHEV.

Shown larger than actual size. Case measures 1.65 inches (4.2 cm) in diameter. Strap measures 7.9 inches (20 cm) in length, excluding casing & buckle.

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BSA MOTORCYCLES

EMPIRE STAR LIMITED EDITION WATCH

Durable stainless steel casing and hand-stitched leather strap

Individually numbered on the reverse, alongside the BSA gold star emblem

Imagery of BSA's Empire Star model with green and black livery

For over a century, a BSA motorcycle has been a two-wheeled symbol of freedom and adventure. Early in BSA Motorcycle heritage, the Empire Star made a name for itself on the racing circuit and roads of Britain. Inspired by the model's motorcycling legacy, the Bradford Exchange presents the officially licensed and specially-commissioned *BSA Motorcycles Empire Star Limited Edition Watch*, **limited to just 4,999 editions**.

BSA winged emblem, full-colour Empire Star motorcycle & individual numbering

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	8146.9	▼	-16.8
FTSE 250	20120.4	▼	-75.6
FTSE ALL SHARE	4438.4	▼	-10.3
Shares Traded	9054.7 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
AstraZeneca	12510	+118
Aviva	476	+4½
BT Group	139½	+4½
Centrica	132	+1¾
HSBC Holdings	676¾	+3½
National Grid	882	+9¼
Saga	116¾	+½
Sainsbury (J)	258¾	+½
Tesco	310¼	+7¾
Unilever	4450	+35
Vodafone Group	69	+¼

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED	
BP	460
Lloyds Banking Group	54¼

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	143¼	-1
BAE Systems	1335	-48
Barclays	202	-3¼
GSK	1604½	-5½
Int Consolidated Airlines	163½	-3½
Marks & Spencer Group	295½	-1½
NatWest Group	307¼	-1
Rolls-Royce Holdings	457¾	-10
Shell	2711	-13
Whitbread	2912	-25

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	38,589.2	▼	-57.9
TOKYO	38814.6	▲	+94.1
HONG KONG	17941.8	▼	-170.9
GERMANY	18002.0	▼	-263.7
FRANCE	7503.3	▼	-204.8

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.268	▼	-0.008
Yen	199.459	▼	-0.958
Euro	1.185	▼	-0.003

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	157.332	▲	+0.2956
Dollar/Euro	0.935	▲	+0.0039

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	2327.60
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	1836.38
SILVER(pence)	▲	2313.18
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	82.77

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	5.25%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.98%
Retail Price Index	+3.3% (CPI +2.3%)
House price Index	0.7%
Unemployment	1,510,000

TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.87 dollar
Canada	1.70 dollar
China	8.56 renminbi
Czech Rep.	27.33 koruna
Denmark	8.41 krone
Eurozone	1.17 euro
Hong Kong	9.35 dollar
Hungary	437.61 forint
Israel	4.45 shekel
Japan	193.44 yen
Jordan	0.84 dinar
Mexico	22.12 peso
New Zealand	1.99 dollar
Norway	13.01 krone
Poland	4.87 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.52 riyal
South Africa	22.56 rand
Sweden	12.71 krona
Switzerland	1.10 franc
Thailand	44.93 baht
Turkey	38.56 lira
United States	1.25 dollar

'I accept I'm well paid'...£10m pay package for Tesco boss

By **Graham Hiscott**

A THREATENED backlash over Tesco boss Ken Murphy's near £10million pay and perks package failed to materialise yesterday.

Investors had been urged to vote against the supermarket's boardroom pay plans at its AGM. It came amid criticism of chief executive Mr Murphy's payout, which leapt from £4.44million in the previous 12 months.

The surge was driven by £4.91million from a long-term share reward scheme after the company saw higher profits in the face of a challenging inflation backdrop.

It meant Mr Murphy was paid 431 times the wage of the average Tesco worker. Several shareholders at the AGM asked chairman Gerry Murphy to justify his chief executive's pay when contract cleaners and security staff were on less than the so-called real living wage.

"I have no difficulty in defending Ken's absolute level of pay given the complexity (and) scale of the business, but also particularly its performance," said Gerry Murphy, who is not related to the CEO.

Ken Murphy had earlier told reporters: "I absolutely accept that I'm well paid."

In the end, an overwhelming 93.49% of votes backed Tesco's boardroom pay report at yesterday's AGM. The result is likely to embolden other big companies looking to hike pay for top executives.

CONTROVERSY: CEO Ken Murphy

It came as Mr Murphy said the supermarket was witnessing a "gentle improvement" in consumer sentiment amid easing food and drink inflation.

Tesco also said total retail sales grew by 3.4% to £15.3billion in the 13 weeks to May 25, compared with the same period last year.

It added that sales of Tesco Finest products were "particularly strong" as shopper demand for premium products grew despite continued pressures on household budgets.

Mr Murphy said: "Our sense is that there is a gentle improvement, ongoing improvement in customer sentiment. We have seen improving volume growth for a number of months and think things like the increase in the National Living Wage has been good for consumers."

Tesco said it expects to deliver an operating profit of at least £2.8billion for the current financial year, holding its targets set in April.

BUILDER'S ASKING PRICE BEYOND RIVAL

GRASS IS GREENER: Crest says Bellway's bids are not enough

HOUSE builder Crest Nicholson says a £650million takeover approach from rival Bellway "significantly undervalued" it.

Crest confirmed it rejected two offers from Bellway in May.

The most recent, worth 253p per share, would have left Crest's shareholders with about 17.1% of the merged firm.

It also represented a premium of about 18.8% on its 213p share price at close of business on Thursday.

Crest said it "significantly undervalued the group and its future standalone prospects". Bellway's first approach was rejected on May 2. Crest issued a profit warning this week, cutting the number of homes it will build, as high interest rates continue to hit demand.

Superdry is given a £10m lifeline

STRUGGLING fashion firm Superdry has avoided insolvency after shareholders backed a £10million lifeline yesterday.

The move will raise fresh funds for the company but also see it delist from London Stock Exchange.

Chairman Peter Sjolander said: "This is a crucial step towards delivering the restructuring of the business and ensuring that Superdry is in the best possible shape to complete its recovery and return to growth."

Chief executive Julian Dunkerton said: "I am extremely grateful for the support from our shareholders."

Bank rates to remain at 5.25%

THE Bank of England is expected to freeze rates next week, in part to avoid political fallout, said experts.

Despite the General Election, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee was forecast to hold its base rate at 5.25% as it waits to ensure a cooldown in inflation is embedded.

But investment bank Investec said: "What clinches the case for this, in our view, is the surprise announcement of the election.

"Because it abides by rules applicable to civil servants that prohibit speeches in the run-up to elections, this put the BoE in a purdah period."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3040	+10	3082	1848
A.B. Foods	2483#	-10	2738	1898½
Admiral Group	2551	-6	2837	2029
Airtel Africa	118½	+2¾	131½	90¾
Anglo American	2388½	-½	2773½	1670¼
Antofagasta	2041	-22	2410	1293
Ashtead Group	5422	-74	6104	4667
AstraZeneca	12510	+118	12600	9501
Auto Trader	819	-6½	829½	587
Aviva	476	+4½	497	369¼
B&M Europ Value Ret	463	-2	612½	459¾
BAE Systems	1335	-48	1400	888¼
Barclays	202	-3¼	220	129¼
Barratt Development	489	-11¼	566½	392¼
Beazley Group	654½	-12½	690	503
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5030	-40	5320	3773
BP	460#		558	444¼
British Amer.Tob	2392	+14	2735	2267
BT Group	139½	+4½	139½	102¼
Bunzl	2922#	-48	3306	2687
Burberry Group	980¼	-43¼	2289	973½
Centrica	132#	+1¾	172½	115½
Coca-Cola HBC	2692#	-14	2804	2065
Compass Group	2217#	-3	2323	1945½
Convatec Group	253¾	+¾	293½	196¼
CRH	6030#	-138	6898	4086
Croda International	4127	-24	5956	4076
DCC	5550#	-80	6035	4171
Diageo	2579	+4½	3457	2562½
Diploma	4158		4252	2804
DS Smith	350	-½	413	263¾
EasyJet	447½	-7½	577¾	360
Entain	656	-16	1403½	651¾
Experian Group	3707	-13	3779	2390
F&C Inv Tst	1004	+5	1050	831
Flutter Entert.	13835	-335	17475	12155
Frasers Group	848½	-9	938	683
Fresnillo	545½	+6½	669	441½
GlaxoSmithKline	1604½#	-5½	1812½	1316
Glencore	454½	-5½	501½	369
Haleon	324¼	-1½	341	308½
Halma	2645	-19	2711	1810½
Hikma	1958	-36	2205	1722
HSBC Holdings	676¾#	+3½	720¾	575¾
IMI	1781	-21	1901	1445
Imperial Brands	1999½#	+19½	1999½	1580
Informa	842½#	+½	852¼	685¾
InterContinental Htl	8180	-46	8752	5210
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2192#	-34	2394	1255½
Intertek Group	4744#	-146	5075	3755
Intl Consolidated Airlines	163½	-3½	186½	138
JD Sports	120¾#	-1¼	175¼	104
Kingfisher	248½#	-7¼	270½	201¼
Land Securities	622#		725¼	559½
Legal & General	224¾	+1	256¼	205¾
Lloyds Banking Grp	54¼		56½	39¾
London Stock Ex	9434	+72	9674	7986
M&G	200½	-1½	238¾	183
Marks & Spencer	295½#	-1½	311½	185
Melrose	600½	-26½	677½	446¾
Mondi	1463	-8	1604	1179¾
National Grid	882#	+9¼	1050	838½
NatWest Group	307¼	-1	326½	176¼
Next	9008	-24	9426	6438
Ocado	357¼	+6¼	976½	342
Pearson	949	-1	1042	811
Pershing Square Hold	4276#	-2	4346	2704
Persimmon	1420	-21	1498	960½
Phoenix Group	480½	-2¼	560¾	441½
Prudential	700	-7½	1135	687½
Reckitt Benckiser	4393	-64	6082	4110
RELX	3558	-18	3580	2442
Rentokil Initial	447	-14½	644	392½
Rightmove	549¾	-8¾	594¾	463
Rio Tinto	5219	-17	5891	4559
Rolls-Royce Group	457¾	-10	469½	145¼
RS Group	699#	-6½	839½	660½
Sage Group	1056½#	+25½	1282	868
Sainsbury (J)	258¾#	+½	310½	245¾
Schroders	370¾	-2½	464½	347¼
Scottish Mortgage	900¼#	+¾	904¼	637½
SEGRO	909	+3¼	940	679¼
Severn Trent	2474#	-46	2728	2265
Shell	2711#	-13	2946	2264½
Smith & Nephew	999½	-11½	1268	896¼
Smiths Group	1681	-27	1766½	1526
Smurfit Kappa	3550	+10	3882	2554
Spirax-Sarco	8485	-190	11255	8058
SSE	1767	-12	1896	1508
St James's Place	520	-3	1183	402
Standard Chartered	724¼	-7½	785¾	573¾
Taylor Wimpey	148¼	-1¼	152½	99¾
Tesco	310¼#	+7¾	315	245½
Unilever	4450	+35	4450	3694
Unite Group	910	+13½	1057	847
United Utilities	1036½	-14	1125	900¾
Vodafone Group	69#	+¼	81	63
Weir Group	2014	-46	2200	1675½
Whitbread	2912#	-25	3678	2855
WPP Group	735½#	-9	875	681¼

FTSE 100
8175
8160
8145
8130
8115
8am 12pm 4:30pm

MARKET REPORT

IT wasn't a good day for **Barclays** as it suspended its sponsorship of all music festivals with promoter Live Nation in 2024, including Latitude and the Isle of Wight.

The move followed protests from bands and fans over the bank providing financial services to defence companies supplying Israel. Barclays closed the day down 1.5%, or 3.15p, at 202p.

Elsewhere, regulators cleared a £350million buyout of **Sutton and East Surrey Water** by **Pennon** (up 1%, or 6.5p, at 605.5p)

Meanwhile, the Competition and Markets Authority launched a formal probe into house builder **Barratt**'s £2.5billion deal to buy rival **Redrow**. Barratt fell 2.2%, or 11.3p, to 488.9p, while Redrow dropped 1.3%, or 9.5p, to 687.5p.

Tesco rose 2.5%, or 7.7p, to 310.2p after it said sales had ticked up in recent months, compared with the previous year, and pointed to an improvement in sentiment among shoppers.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

Aerospace & Defence

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Avon Rubber	1288	+4	1378	593
Babcock International	522	-9½	565½	269
BAE Systems	1335	-48	1400	888¼
Chemring Group	374½	-6½	396	259
QinetiQ Group	438½	-10¾	459	292¾
Rolls-Royce Group	457¾	-10	469½	145¼
Senior	156½	-2½	180½	154¼

Alternative Energy

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Porvair	696	+10	730	524

Banks

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barclays	202	-3¼	220	129¼
Bco Santander	370½	+3½	414	260½
Close Brothers	425	+½	976½	299¼
CYBG	214¼	+½	216¼	142
HSBC Holdings	676¼#	+3½	720¾	575¾
Investec	555½	+23½	560½	429½
Lloyds Banking Grp	54¼		56½	39¾
Metro Bank	35¼	-¼	125½	28¾
NatWest Group	307¼	-1	326½	176¼
Standard Chartered	724¼	-7½	785¾	573¾

Beverages

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barr (AG)	585	-3	623	451½
Britvic	963#	+10	1018	785½
Coca-Cola HBC	2692#	-14	2804	2065
Diageo	2579	+4½	3457	2562½

Chemicals

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Carclo	18½		19	6¾
Croda International	4127	-24	5956	4076
Elementis	141	+½	156½	98
Johnson Matthey	1551#	-28	1870	1446½
Synthomer	271	-5½	327½	122½
Treatt	454	-8½	707	370
Victrex	1126#	-22	1595	1116

Construction & Materials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Balfour Beatty	346¾#		386¼	295½
Clarke T.	159¼	+¾	163¾	118½
CRH	6030#	-138	6898	4086
Dialight	191	-2	237	144
Galliford Try	236	+5	275	192½
Gleeson (MJ)	550		580	350
Keller Group	1208#	-10	1376	673
Kier Group	136¼	-1¼	149½	74½
Marshalls	296½#	-4½	329½	198
Morgan Sindall	2565	-20	2595	1706
Severfield-Rowen	70¼	-¾	75	50
Smart (J) & Co	125		168½	117½
Tyman	354	-6	396½	236

Electricity

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Drax Group	488¾	-6	619¾	401½
SSE	1767	-12	1896	1508

Electronic & Electrical Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Acal	676	-15	936	593
Halma	2645	-19	2711	1810½
Morgan Crucible	309	-3½	331	218½
Oxford Instruments	2600	-5	2730	1712
Renishaw	3985	-15	4370	2950
Spectris	3126#	-56	3807	2935
TT Electronics	152½	+3	185	135¼
XP Power	1594	+10	2440	776

Equity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aberdeen Asian Sml	279#		287	243
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1466	-4	1544	1126
Acorn Income	367½			
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	67½#		73½	66
Albion VCT	43¼		47½	43¼
Alliance Trust	1186#		1264	988
Artemis Alpha	372		378	263½
Aurora Inv.Tst.	244#	-5	254	198
AVI Global Tst	235½	-1	248	185
Baillie Gifford Japan	724	+15	796	641
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	112½	+2½	147½	105
Bankers Inv.Tst	111½	+¾	117	92¼
Baronsmead VCT.2	54½		56	50¼
BH Macro GBP	345½	-2	386	328
Biotech Growth Trust	1002	+22	1024	718
BlackRock Mining	548#	-1	631	492½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	30½		33	30½
British Assets Tst	81½	-½	87½	71¼
Brunner Inv.Tst	1285#	-5	1355	966
Caledonia Inv	3390	+20	3660	3110
City Natural Res.Yld	185	-3¾	204	152
City Of London	413½	-½	428	371½
Dunedin Ent.IT	510	-2½	565	480
Dunedin Income	282		294	249
Edin Wwide Inv	143¼	-½	157	122½
Edin.Drgn.Tst.	389	-3	414	325
Edin.Inv.Tst	720#	+1	742	615
Edin.US Tracker	294	+1	298	258½
Elderstreet VCT	44		49	44
European Ass Tst	88¾	-1½	91¾	73
F&C Cap&Inc	326½#	-½	339	271
F&C Inv Tst	1004	+5	1050	831
F&C Smaller Cos	160¼		167½	129
F&C US Smaller Companies	1255	-15	1360	1065
Fidelity Asian	524	+4	542	476
Fidelity European	386½	-4½	411	311½
Fidelity Japanese	171½	+½	185	152½
Fidelity Special	297#	-2½	311½	252½
Finsbury Gwth&In	840	+2	914	792
Foresight Tech.VCT	72½#		84	72½
Gartmore Euro	184#	-3¾	195½	150
Genesis E.M.F.	680	+10¾	720¼	569
Graphite Ent	1220	+4	1262	1046
Hansa Tst'A'	197	-1	217	175
Hansa Tst Plc	209	-1	223	180½
Henderson Euro.Tst	156#	-2	164½	124½
Henderson Far Est	237½	+5½	252	197¾
Henderson High Inc	157#	-2½	172	140½
Henderson Opp Tst	225#	-3	236	171½
Herald Inv.Tst	2190	+10	2215	1596
HGCapital Tst	473	-3½	499	353½
HSBC Infrastructure	125½#	+2¼	139½	117¼
Impax Env.Mkt	390½	-1½	417	334½
Int.Biotech.Tst	664	+6	694	548
International Public	124¾	+¾	139¼	115½
Invesco Asia	322		348	286
Invesco Perp UK	434	-2	440	379
JPM American	975	+10	991	741
JPM Asian	369	+5	371	313
JPM Claverhouse	712	-12	746	630
JPM Emerg Mkt	104	+1	108¼	96½
JPM Euro Sml Co	455	-11	485	354½
JPM Global Emerging	133	+1½	140	117
JPM Indian	968	+4	982	798
JPM Japanese	524	+5	553	438½
JPM Overseas IT	569#	+13	570	456
JPM Smaller Co	320#		339	230
JPM US Sml Co	384	-3	412	317
Jupiter Euro	883	-12	915	743
JZ Capital Partners	215		220	149
Keystone Inv.Tst	221	+1	231	183¼
Law Debenture	837#	-10	897	721
Lowland Invest Co	125	-½	130	104½
Majedie Inv	238	-3	252	181
Manchester&Lon	772	+14	783¾	413½
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst	382		397	299
Matrix Inc & Gwth 4	68		73½	66½
Maven Income And Growth VCT	38		40	38
Mercantile Inv Tst	231½	-½	248	177¾
Merchants Tst	554	-2	591	477½
Mid Wynd Int	777	+4	788	670
Monks Inv.Tst	1170	+4	1194	890
Montanaro Euro Tst	139½	-3	145	107¼
Montanaro Uk	106	-2	111½	84¼
Murray Inc.Tst	852	-4	898	770
Murray Int.Tst	248	+1½	265	219
New India	780	-2	796	532
New Star Inv.Tst	115		123	109½
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	3910	-40	4190	3420
Northern 2 VCT	54½		56½	54
Northern Venture	57½		60	54
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	11		21½	11
Pacific Assets	380#	+8	389	340
Pacific Horizon	620	+4	657	512
Pantheon Int	313	-3½	334	245½
Pershing Square Hold	4276#	-2	4346	2704
Polar Cap.Tech	3265	+15	3286¼	2105
RCM Technology Trust	385½	+6	385½	246
RIT Capital Partners	1770	-8	2010	1718
Ruffer Investment	270	-½	289	261
Schroder Asia	522	+5	531	456
Schroder Inc	286	-1	304½	249
Schroder Japan	256		263	217
Schroder UK	170	-1½	176	141¾
Schroder UK M&S	612	-8	634	482
Scottish American	506#	-1	536	452
Scottish Mortgage	900¼#	+¾	904¼	637½
Shires Inc	242	-2	253	209½
Small Comp Div.Tst	165½		168	131
SPARK VCT	19½		20½	19½
Standard Life Equity	298#	-5	331	260
Standard Life UK Sml	483½	-5	508	370
SVM UK Emerging	65¼		67½	61½
Temple Bar	256½#	-2	275½	212
Templeton Emrg	158½	+1	165½	141
The European Inv.Tst	96½	-1½	101	75½
Throgmorton Tst	603	-4	641	507
TR Euro.Growth	178½	-4	188½	136
TR Prop. IT	315½	-2	345	255
Value & Income	184	-½	210	163
Witan Inv Trust	257½	+½	270	210½
Witan Pacific	204	+2	243	176
Wwide Healthcare	357#	+4	358½	288

Financial Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3040	+10	3082	1848
3i Infrastructure	325½#	+7	348	278½
Abrdn	143¼	-1	236¾	136¼
Ashmore Group	172	-2	232½	166¼
Guinness Peat Group	80½	-2	88¾	64
Hargreaves Lansdown	1051	-15	1120	690½
IG Group	794		822½	611
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2192#	-34	2394	1255½
International Pers Fin	124½	-2	131	100½
IP Group	45¼	-½	61½	43½
Jupiter Fund Man.	75	-½	115	73½
Liontrust Asset Man	756	+9	855	523½
London Stock Ex.	9434	+72	9674	7986
Lonfin	52½	+2	55	32
M&G	200½	-1½	238¾	183
Man Group	245½	-3	277¾	202
Paragon Group	743½	+4	779½	443½
Provident Financial	51¾	+½	198¼	46¼
Rathbone Brothers	1650	-36	1996	1458
S & U	1890		2450	1800
Schroders	370¾	-2½	464½	347¼
St James's Place	520	-3	1183	402
Tullett Prebon	204	+1½	227½	141
Walker Crips Group	23		26½	20½

Fixed Line Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Airtel Africa	118½	+2¾	131½	90¾
BT Group	139½	+4½	139½	102¼
Telecom Plus	1870	+22	1892	1362

Food & Drug Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Greggs	2810	-10	2940	2282
Marks & Spencer	295½#	-1½	311½	185
Ocado	357¼	+6¼	976½	342
Sainsbury (J)	258¼#	+½	310½	245¾
Tesco	310¼#	+7¾	315	245½

Food Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
A.B. Foods	2483#	-10	2738	1898½
Anglo-Eastern	670#		790	652
Carr's Milling	148		149¾	93¾
Cranswick	4350	+75	4465	3170
Glanbia	1537¾	-76¾	1614½	1103¼
Greencore Group	162	-4½	176½	68¾
Kerry Grp'A'Shs	6613¼	+160¼	7768¾	6048
Premier Foods	163½	-1	176¼	113¼
REA Holdings	95¾		98½	49¼
Tate & Lyle	674	+½	760	591

Gas, Water & Multiutilities

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Centrica	132#	+1¾	172½	115½
National Grid	882#	+9¼	1050	838½
Pennon Group	605½	+6½	767	551
Severn Trent	2474#	-46	2728	2265
United Utilities	1036½	-14	1125	900¾

General Industrials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bunzl	2922#	-48	3306	2687
DS Smith	350	-½	413	263¾
Goodwin	7100	+620	7300	4200
Melrose	600½	-26½	677½	446¾
Mondi	1463	-8	1604	1179¾
Smiths Group	1681	-27	1766½	1526
Smurfit Kappa	3550	+10	3882	2554

General Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
ASOS	353½	-7½	449¾	329
Auto Trader	819	-6½	829½	587
B&M Europ Value Ret	463	-2	612½	459¾
Caffyns	450		580	433¼
Dixons Carphone	76	+¼	79¾	43¾
Dunelm	1036	-8	1191	967
Frasers Group	848½	-9	938	683
Halfords Group	139¼	-3	234	139
Howden Joinery	867½	-11½	930½	613
JD Sports	120¼#	-1¼	175¼	104
Kingfisher	248½#	-7¼	270½	201¼
Next	9008	-24	9426	6438
Pendragon	381½	-7	795	312
Pets At Home	291¼#	-¼	397½	254½
RM Group	86½	-1½	103½	48
Topps Tiles	42¼#	-2¼	56½	40½
WH Smith	1156	-23	1634	1083

Health Care Equipment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Convatec Group	253¾	+¾	293½	196¼
Flying Brands	1¼		5¾	1¼
Smith & Nephew	999½	-11½	1268	896¼

Household Goods & Home Construction

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barratt Development	489	-11¼	566½	392¼
Bellway	2598#	-120	2860	1921
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5030	-40	5320	3773
Bovis Homes	1214	-27	1310	636
Colefax Group	855		855	655
Headlam Group	146		275	146
Mcbride	120	-4	128	25½
Persimmon	1420	-21	1498	960½
Reckitt Benckiser	4393	-64	6082	4110
Redrow	687½	-9½	739	427½
Taylor Wimpey	148¼	-1¼	152½	99¾

Industrial Engineering

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bodycote	710	-7	768	555
Castings	376	+26	419	326
Hill & Smith	1924#	-32	2100	1458
IMI	1781	-21	1901	1445
Northgate	404½	-5½	438	311½
Rotork	323¼	-3	343¾	281
Slingsby H.C	275		300	190
Spirax-Sarco	8485	-190	11255	8058
Vesuvius	465½	-2	504	390¾
Vitec Group	331	+6	723¼	272
Weir Group	2014	-46	2200	1675½
Xaar	137	-4	190	91¼

Industrial Metals & Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Evraz	81			
Ferrexpo	44	-¼	95	41½

Industrial Transportation

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Braemar Shipping Serv	284	-½	310	224
Clarkson	4140	-20	4235	2550
FirstGroup	154½	-1	187¾	136¼
Fisher (J) & Sons	311	-3	425	245½
Ocean Wilsons	1300#	-20	1475	914
Royal Mail	326	-3½	336¼	212¾

Leisure Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	9400	-110	11700	9125
Photo-Me Intl	166½	-¼	182¾	119½

Life Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aviva	476	+4½	497	369¼
Chesnara	250	+2	286	246½
Legal & General	224½	+1	256¼	205¾
Phoenix Group	480½	-2¼	560¾	441½
Prudential	700	-7½	1135	687½

Media

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
4imprint Group	5670	-160	6540	4255
Bloomsbury Publish.	610	+16	618	381
Future	993	-27	1145	577
Informa	842½#	+½	852¼	685¾
ITV	75¾	-¼	79½	55¾
Pearson	949	-1	1042	811
Reach	86½	+1	92	59
RELX	3558	-18	3580	2442
STV Group	280	+2	290½	176½
Wilmington Group	365	-10	400	257
WPP Group	735½#	-9	875	681¼

Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Anglo American	2388½	-½	2773½	1670¼
Anglo Pacific	74½	-¼	123	70¾
Antofagasta	2041	-22	2410	1293
BHP Billiton	2235	+1	2700	2175
Centamin Egypt	113½#	+½	130¼	78¼
Endeavour Mining	1610		2024	1250
Fresnillo	545½	+6½	669	441½
Gem Diamonds	13		21¾	8
Glencore	454½	-5½	501½	369
Hochschild Mining	169	-2¾	188	70¼
Kenmare Res.	320	-13½	460	294
London & Ass.Prop	11½		15½	8½
Petra Diamonds	40½	-½	76½	37
Rio Tinto	5219	-17	5891	4559

Mobile Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Vodafone Group	69#	+¼	81	63

Nonequity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1300		1450	1020
Rights &Iss.Inc	2430	-10	2440	1805

Nonlife Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Admiral Group	2551	-6	2837	2029
Beazley Group	654½	-12½	690	503
Direct Line Insurance	192¾	-½	225¾	134
Hiscox	1113	-1	1240	938
Lancashire	599	+5	689	538

Oil & Gas Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BP	460#		558	444¼
Cairn Energy	170½	+3	375¾	142½
Enquest	13		18½	12
Gulf Keystone Pet.	130¾	-2	146½	84¾
Harbour Energy	297½	-6½	330	218¼
Regal Petroleum	16	-½	20¾	12¼
Shell	2711#	-13	2946	2264½
Soco International	24#		24½	18¾
Tullow Oil	32¾	-¼	39½	25¼

Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Hunting	393½	-9	446	197½
John Wood Group	197½	+1¼	200¾	125¾
Petrofac	14½	+½	87½	10½

Personal Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Burberry Group	980¼	-43¼	2289	973½
PZ Cussons	101¼	+¼	180½	83
Supergroup	6½	+3	20½	1½
Unilever	4450	+35	4450	3694

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
AstraZeneca	12510	+118	12600	9501
Genus	1710	-60	2506	1637
GlaxoSmithKline	1604½#	-5½	1812½	1316
Haleon	324¼	-1½	341	308½
Hikma	1958	-36	2205	1722
Oxford Biomedica	306½	-8½	470	166¾

Real Estate Investment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Boot (Henry)	206	+1	230	170
Capital & Regional	61¾	+1½	62¼	49¼
Cardiff Property	2300#		2450	2240
CLS Holdings	86¼	+¼	145¾	82
Foxtons	68	+¼	71	34¼
Grainger	238#	+3	274¾	217½
Harworth Group	142	+3½	145	95½
Mountview Est.	9775	+75	11450	9475
Panther Secs.	315		315	255
Rightmove	549¾	-8¾	594¾	463
Savills	1110	-8	1178	763½
Wynnstay Props.	680		730	625

Real Estate Investment Trusts

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Big Yellow Group	1172	-2	1264	910
British Land	426½	+2	444½	291¾
Capital & Counties	137	-2¾	147½	102½
Derwent London	2322	+10	2402	1779
F&C Commercial	75½#	-¼	84	61
Great Portland Est.	339½#	-4½	379	295¾
Hammerson	28	-¼	29¾	21
Helical Bar	218		279½	185
Land Securities	622#		725¼	559½
London & Stamford Prop	194½#	-½	210¼	156½
Primary Health	91¼		106¼	85½
SEGRO	909	+3¼	940	679¼
Town Centre	145½#	-1½	160	110
Unite Group	910	+13½	1057	847
Workspace Group	564	-5	604	454½

Software & Computer Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Computacenter	2814#	-34	2944	2026
Gresham Computing	161		163	114
Intec Telecom	71¾			
Just Eat Takeaway	990	-14	1467	914
Microgen	364#	+2	380	230
Moneysupermarket	221		283¾	208
Sage Group	1056½#	+25½	1282	868
Triad Group	295		300	105

Support Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashtead Group	5422	-74	6104	4667
Capita Group	14	-½	32¼	12½
Costain Group	76¾	-3¼	87	43½
DCC	5550#	-80	6035	4171
De La Rue	98	+1¾	102	30
Diploma	4158		4252	2804
Essentra	170#	-1¼	190	143½
Experian Group	3707	-13	3779	2390
Falkland Islands	250		273	205
Ferguson	15820#	-295	17685	11665
Hays	102¾	-½	110½	88½
Inchcape	743#	-13	847	624½
Intertek Group	4744#	-146	5075	3755
London Security	3050#		3100	2850
Macfarlane Group	123½	-½	145	99
Mears Group	364½	-6	394	253
Michael Page	432#	-4¾	498½	365
Mitie Group	117½		124¼	92
Paypoint	613	+5	621¾	436
Rentokil Initial	447	-14½	644	392½
Ricardo Group	495		610	404
Robert Walters	421	-2	472	353
RS Group	699#	-6½	839½	660½
Serco Group	170½		189¾	137
Shanks Group	663	-4	734	450
SIG	27		38	26¼
Smiths News	57¾#		65½	40¾
Speedy Hire	28¼	-¼	37¾	23½
SThree	411½	-7½	439½	332
Travis Perkins	802½	-13	914½	692¼
Trifast	70	-½	94	66¼

Technology Hardware & Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BATM Advanced	17½	-½	29½	17
Spirent	184¼	-¼	200	90

Tobacco

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
British Amer.Tob	2392	+14	2735	2267
Imperial Brands	1999½#	+19½	1999½	1580

Travel & Leisure

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
888 Holdings	81½	-1½	130	70½
Carnival	1077	-73½	1377	811½
Celtic	137½		144	116
Compass Group	2217#	-3	2323	1945½
Domino's Pizza	310½	-7½	424½	275¼
EasyJet	447½	-7½	577¾	360
Entain	656	-16	1403½	651¾
Flutter Entert.	13835	-335	17475	12155
Fuller Smith & Turner	716	-12	742	542
Heavitree	265		290	265
InterContinental Htl	8180	-46	8752	5210
Intl Consolidated Airlines	163½	-3½	186½	138
Irish Continental Uts	489½	-50½	540	366
Marston's	32	-½	39	25¾
Mitchells & Butlers	295	-5	312½	199¼
National Express	47¼	-¾	115¼	46¼
Rank Group	72½	-1½	103½	62½
Saga	116¾	+½	156	104½
TUI AG	573½	-14	677	401
Wetherspoon (JD)	725½	-12½	847½	613
Whitbread	2912#	-25	3678	2855

AIM

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Alumasc Group	194		204	137½
Arbuthnot Banking	945#	+2½	1105	877½
Boohoo	33¼	+¼	42	29¼
Brown (N.) Group	19¾	+1	25	14
Camellia	4350		6100	4270
Churchill China	1125#		1495	1000
CML Microsystems	355		460	297½
CPP Group	165½	-6½	191½	122½
Cropper (James)	355	+40	845	230
Dewhurst	1190		1200	710
Fevertree Drinks	1005#	-1	1412	952
Filtronic	67½	-¼	71	13½
Hornby	22		38½	14½
James Halstead	189#	-3½	225	184½
Johnson Service	156½	-2	171¼	101
Mothercare	4¾		8	3¾
Mpac Group	501		530	187½
Naked Wine	60		112¾	28½
Nichols	1005	-3	1200	882
Norish	14		15	11
Northamber	42		50½	35
Ovoca Gold	1		14	+½
Portmeirion	230		412	204
Renold	59¾	-3½	64¾	27¼
Rockhopper Exploratn	14½		14½	10¼
Ten Alps	87½		101	75
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Volex	338½	-3½	355	270
Young & Co Brewery A	960	-12	1240	946

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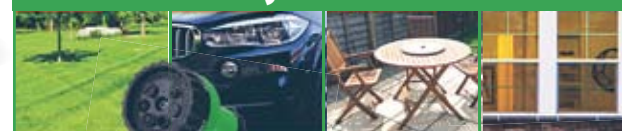
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8083	8087	100ft (30m) + Free Pack	~~£49.99~~	£39.99	£10		
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Racing

FIRST SER-VE Serried Ranks has plenty going for him at the Knavesmire today

Rank fit for a King

ROYAL SPRINTER READY FOR SPRINT GLORY

SERRIED RANKS (3.35) is fanciedto find the gaps in York's Churchill Tyres Supporting Macmillan Sprint Handicap.

Owned by King Charles and Queen Camilla, Ralph Beckett's sprinter shaped with promise on his seasonal comeback.

The gelded son of Land Force appeared rusty during the five-furlong contest at Sandown, a track where horses cannot miss a beat.

Jockey Rossa Ryan had little room to manoeuvre late on and looked after his mount when his chance had gone.

Back up in trip, Serried Ranks is drawn next to main players Woodhay Wonder – chasing a five-timer – and Ziggy's Condor, going the opposite way on the distance front.

As a juvenile, my selection beat stablemate Starlust – an impressive winner of a Knavesmire handicap last month – and has lots of potential.

Ahead of Royal Ascot next week, Ryan Moore is in flying form, with seven winners and five places from 17 rides in the last fortnight. He has three

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

opportunities today and will have to be at his strongest on William Haggas' stayer **KLONDIKE** (3.00).

All his mount does is gallop and it is interesting Moore, right, appears to have picked him over Real Dream, a consistent type rated 2lb superior.

QUINTUS ARRIUS (2.25, trb) is fancied to land the Sky Bet Proud To Support Macmillan Handicap for local handler Peter Niven.

While my selection hasn't hit the heights once expected as a £150,000 juvenile, seven furlongs may suit.

In May 2023, he scored from a 1lb higher mark at Hamilton, a circuit which places the emphasis on stamina with its uphill finish.

Each-way odds of 14-1 are currently available, with most firms paying five places for the 20-runner contest.

Grade One-winning rider Jody Townend travels over from Ireland to partner Queen Mother's Cup entrant **ARRANGE** (1.50).

One of the best in the business, she took last year's renewal on Kihavah and this contender is coming into form.

The same can be said for Horseradish Catering & Events Roodee Handicap pick **BLUE PRINCE** (3.20) at Chester.

Drawn in four, pace to his outside could open a space towards the rail for a late charge.

NO HALF MEASURES (2.40) is on a roll ahead of Sandown's BetMGM: It's Showtime Scurry Stakes.

A fast learner, the Cable Bay filly shrugged off soft-ground concerns on her first turf start at Goodwood – and has earned a step up in grade.

Three days before Rosallion takes his place in an absorbing St James's Palace Stakes, Listen To BetMGM On talkSPORT Handicap course winner **CLASSIC** (2.05) can run a big race for Richard Hannon.

SANDOWN RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

1.30 Break The Bank
2.05 Classic
2.40 No Half Measures
3.15 Mount Teide
3.50 Royal Approval
4.25 Hot Fashion
5.00 Coco Royale

1.30 DOWNLOAD THE BETMGM APP HCAP 3YO
£12,885 (Class 3) 1m 1f (9 declared)

1 (5) 1245-23 **MAFNOOD (34)** R Hannon 9-9 ... **J Crowley** 90
2 (4) 32-120 **BRIONI (28)** A King 9-9 ... **J P Spencer** ★94
3 (6) 3-41 **CRYSTAL FLYER (21)** T Ward 9-9 ... **S M Levey** 84
4 (2) 416-4 **MR MONACO (22)** R Beckett 9-8 ... **Rossa Ryan** 91
5 (9) 51-15 **INTO BATTLE (28) (D)** E Walker 9-7 ... **S Osborne** 91
6 (8) 673-165 ● **BREAK THE BANK (36)** A Balding 9-7 ... **O Murphy** 91
7 (7) 5-2123 **JAYYASH (21)** J & T Gosden 9-6 ... **Doubtful** 91
8 (3) 523-33 **VON BAER (49)** B Meehan 9-4 ... **T Marquand** 92
9 (1) L9L-111 **PRINCE ERIC (64)** J Ferguson 9-2 ... **W Buick** 93

BLINKERS: No. 1
VISOR: Nos. 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 4 Mr Monaco, 9-2 Prince Eric, Crystal Flyer, 5 Into Battle, 6 Mafnood, 7 Von Baer, 10 Break The Bank, 12 Brioni.
2023: Connemara Coast 9-2, Ryan Moore 11-4 (R Hughes), drawn (5), 7 ran.

2.05 BETMGM ON TALKSPORT HCAP ITV4
£50,960 (2) 1m (16)

1 11503-8 **HELM ROCK (166) (D)** 6 9 12 ... **Rossa Ryan** 101
(12) Runs: 33 Wins: 7(S,A,GS,G) Places: 8 £120,994
Trainer: D & C Kubler Owner: Capture The Moment Vii

2 0100-51 **DUAL IDENTITY (23) (C&D)** 6 9 11 ... **N Callan** 102
(3) Runs: 29 Wins: 5(S,A,G) Places: 8 £102,311
Trainer: W Knight Owner: Kennet Valley Syndicates Iv

3 211522- **FLYING FRONTIER (269)** 4 9 9 ... **James Doyle** 102
(5) Runs: 6 Wins: 2(G) Places: 3 £23,011
Trainer: J Tate Owner: Mr Saeed Manana

4 8540-62 **DANCING MAGIC (36)** 4 9 9 ... **O Murphy** 102
(9) Runs: 13 Places: 3 £51,705
Trainer: R Teal Owner: Fishdance Ltd

5 L5004-0 **IMPERIAL FIGHTER (28)** 5 9 9 **S Osborne** 99
(2) Runs: 14 Wins: 1(S) Places: 3 £110,220
J Osborne Owner: Jim And Claire Ltd And Jon & Kay Colli

6 83-1101 **TWO TEMPTING (15) (D)** 5 9 7 ... **David Egan** 101
(11) Runs: 26 Wins: 5(A,GS) Places: 8 £111,247
Trainer: J Portman Owner: Berkeley Racing

7 321-125 **VULTAR (45) (D)** 4 9 6 ... **W Buick** 102
(4) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(A) Places: 5 £25,015
Trainer: C Cox Owner: Mr Adrian Butler

8 64142-L ● **CLASSIC (23) (C)** 4 9 6 ... **P Dobbs** ★106
(14) Runs: 11 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 2 £37,259
Trainer: R Hannon Owner: Mrs J Wood

9 68-2103 **FARASI LANE (34) (C&D)** 6 9 5 **K Shoemark** 102
(7) Runs: 41 Wins: 6(A,GS) Places: 9 £123,524
Dr R Newland & J Insole Owner: Mr Adam Spratt & Partner

10 163-546 **BILL SILVERS (19)** 4 9 4 ... **D Tudhope** 105
(1) Runs: 7 Wins: 1(S) £15,532
Trainer: Harry Eustace Owner: Clipper

11 1170-L6 **TERWADA (28) (D)** 4 9 4 ... **T Marquand** 102
(8) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(F,GS) Places: 1 £18,171
Trainer: E Walker Owner: Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum

12 4134/5 **MASCAPONE (34)** 4 9 3 ... **J P Spencer** 102
(15) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(A) £12,486
Trainer: D M Simcock Owner: Australian Bloodstock

13 1446-10 **PJANOO (42) (D)** 4 9 2 ... **S M Levey** 101
(6) Runs: 12 Wins: 2(F,A) Places: 1 £37,636
Trainer: R Spencer Owner: Phil Cunningham

14 L240-68 **BLUELIGHT BAY (45) (D)** 4 9 1 ... **C Bishop** 104
(13) Runs: 13 Wins: 2(F) Places: 2 £40,041
E J-Houghton Owner: Jacobsconstructionholdings & J E Harle

15 19-1417 **HIROMICHI (23) (D)** 6 9 0 ... **S De Sousa** 102
(10) Runs: 26 Wins: 8(S,A,GS,G) Places: 4 £53,142
Trainer: J Channon Owner: Jon and Julia Aisbitt

16 211121 **GREAT BLASKET (2) (D)** 4 9 0(5ex) **L Morris** 97
(16) Runs: 19 Wins: 7(A,G) Places: 6 £63,187
Trainer: Dr R Newland & J Insole Owner: Urloxhey Racing

BLINKERS: No. 16 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 9, 13, 15.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Dancing Magic, 6 Dual Identity, 7 Flying Frontier, 8 Classic, Mascapone, 12 Two Tempting, Terwada, Great Blasket, 14 Others.
2023: Maysong 6-8-13, Shariq Mohd(7) 20-1 (Alice Haynes), drawn (2), 12 ran.

GUIDE: Dancing Magic was edging down the weights before finishing a good second at Chester (1m, gd-fm), so a 1lb rise should not prevent him from mounting another stern challenge. The William Knight-trained **DUAL IDENTITY** reserves his best for this venue, though, as evidenced by last month's C&D (sft) success. A 4lb rise leaves him on a career-high mark, but it would come as no surprise were he up to the task. **Bill Silvers** was far from disgraced in the Zetland Gold Cup at Redcar (1m2f, sft) on his latest outing and he should not be ruled out down in trip.

2.40 BETMGM: STAKES (LISTED) 3YO ITV4
£31,190 (1) 5f 10yds (8)

1 7212-7L **DAWN CHARGER (13) (D,T)** 9 4 ... **P-L Jamin** 108
(4) Runs: 9 Wins: 3(S,G) Places: 3 £101,504
Trainer: K R Burke Owner: Saif Mohammad Alketbi & E Burke

2 2-41123 **ADAAY IN DEVON (28) (D) (S)** 9 2 ... **S De Sousa** ★113
(3) Runs: 14 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 5 £110,498
Trainer: B Millman Owner: Horniwinks Racing Syndicate

3 61L24-L **FLORA OF BERMUDA (21) (D,F)** 8 13 ... **O Murphy** 110
(7) Runs: 8 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £78,451
Trainer: A Balding Owner: Bermuda Racing Ltd

4 21136-5 **GRACEFUL THUNDER (89) (C&D,F)** 8 13 ... **David Egan** 105
(6) Runs: 8 Wins: 3(S,GS) Places: 2 £59,013
Trainer: G Boughey Owner: AMO Racing Limited

5 221-611 **NIGHTEYES (8) (F)** 8 13 ... **D Tudhope** 106
(5) Runs: 8 Wins: 3(S,F,GS) Places: 3 £30,654
Trainer: D O'Meara Owner: Akela Thoroughbreds Limited

6 2111 ● **NO HALF MEASURES (42) (D)** 8 13 ... **G Rooke** 108
(1) Runs: 4 Wins: 3(S,A) Places: 1 £27,680
Trainer: R Hughes Owner: Mr R P Gallagher

7 13378-0 **SYMBOLOGY (28)** 8 13 ... **W Buick** 109
(8) Runs: 6 Wins: 1(G) Places: 2 £50,701
Trainer: C Cox Owner: Isa Salman Al Khalifa

8 1363-06 **UNBREAK MY HEART (30) (D)** 8 13 ... **J Crowley** 108
(2) Runs: 7 Wins: 1(F) Places: 2 £19,801
Trainer: C Cox Owner: Mr C J Harper

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Adaay In Devon, 7-2 Flora Of Bermuda, 5 No Half Measures, 7 Nighteyes, 8 Graceful Thunder, 12 Symbology, Dawn Charger, 25 Unbreak My Heart.
2023: Lady Hamana 8-11, Clifford Lee 9-1 (K R Burke), drawn (3), 7 ran.

GUIDE: The admirably consistent **Adaay In Devon** merits the utmost respect following yet another solid performance in the Listed Carnarvon Stakes at Newbury (6f, gd) last month, but it is **FLORA OF BERMUDA** who shades preference. Andrew Balding's filly was never involved on her return in the Temple Stakes at Haydock (5f, sft), having failed to break on terms. These are much calmer waters, though, and she will be a threat to all if avoiding those earlier antics. **Graceful Thunder** is another to consider after a decent enough return to action at Chantilly (5f, hvy).

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Firm. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** William Buick 23% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** G & J Moore 14% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 Mafnood (blinkers), Break The Bank (visor), Jayyash (visor), 2.05 Imperial Fighter (tongue strap), 3.15 Gamekeeper (cheek pieces), 3.50 Mutaawid (cheek pieces), 5.00 Cinnodin (blinkers). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.30 Mafnood(hcp), Von Baer(hcp). 2.05 Dancing Magic(hcp). 2.40 Graceful Thunder. 3.15 Jarraaf. 4.25 Get Jiggy With It, Royal Velvet(hcp). 5.00 Bashful Boy(hcp hdl), Dancing In Paris(hcp), Western Stars(hcp). **DRAW:** Low numbers best in sprints, especially in large fields on soft going **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Dawn Charger** (2.40) 249 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** No Qualifiers.

3.15 HANDICAP 3YO
£12,885 (3) 7f (11)

1 (3) 421 ● **MOUNT TEIDE (15) (D)** A Balding 9-9 ... **O Murphy** 89
2 (1) 1-3 **JARRAAF (29)** Owen Burrows 9-8 ... **J Crowley** 90
3 (8) 2113- **PALMAR BAY (231)** R Beckett 9-8 ... **Rossa Ryan** 95
4 (10) 3312-5 **MAGSOOD (21) (D,F)** R Varian 9-7 ... **James Doyle** 89
5 (4) 10 **STAR STYLE (41) (D)** R Hannon 9-6 ... **P Dobbs** 93
6 (11) 1-2 **SWINDON (15) (D)** W Haggas 9-4 ... **Doubtful**
7 (5) 7223-1L **ROBBO (21) (D)** C Hills 9-4 ... **S Osborne** 90
8 (2) 3L15-90 **QUATRE BRAS (42) (D)** J Chapple-Hyam 9-3 **David Egan** 90
9 (9) 31-30L **GAMEKEEPER (42)** J & T Gosden 9-1 ... **W Buick** ★96
10 (6) 532-8 **GRAND KARAT (60)** Harry Charlton 9-0 ... **D Tudhope** 93
11 (7) 13130-6 **SPANISH BLAZE (22) (C&D)** M Tregoning 9-0 **K Shoemark** 94

CHEEK PIECES: No. 9 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 4 Mount Teide, 11-2 Jarraaf, 7 Star Style, 8 Palmar Bay, Gamekeeper, 10 Magsood, Grand Karat, 12 Others.
2023: He's A Monster 9-6, Hector Crouch 17-2 (A Watson), drawn (4), 8 ran.

3.50 DARLEY BRITISH EBF MAIDEN STAKES
£20,616 (2) 1m 1f 209yds (15)

1 (9) 6 **ONESTEPTWOSTEPS (15)** N Gifford 7 10-2 ... **L Morris** 63
2 (13) **PRAGUE** D Cunha 4 10-2 ... **J Gilligan** –
3 (3) 68 **STARSPANGLEDSAMMY (26)** C Allen 4 9-11 **S De Sousa** 57
4 (2) 6-6 **ATLANTIC CONVOY (19)** R Beckett 3 9-3 ... **D Tudhope** 68
5 (5) 8 **DESPERATE DAN (29)** P Chapple-Hyam 3 9-3 ... **N Callan** 68
6 (10) **EDWARDTHENINTH** M Tregoning 3 9-3 ... **K Shoemark** –
7 (4) **FRENCH MASTER** J & T Gosden 3 9-3 ... **R Havlin** –
8 (12) 7 **GIVE IT TO ME OJ (29)** G & J Moore 3 9-3 ... **T P Queally** 70
9 (1) 5 **KINGDOM OF STARS (61)** T Ward 3 9-3 ... **S M Levey** 64
10 (6) 59 **MUTAAWID (15)** J & T Gosden 3 9-3 ... **J Crowley** 72
11 (14) 9 **RAGING AL (61)** R Beckett 3 9-3 ... **Rossa Ryan** 50
12 (15) ● **ROYAL APPROVAL (F)** A Balding 3 9-3 ... **O Murphy** –
13 (7) **SIR LOWRY'S PASS** E Walker 3 9-3 ... **S Osborne** –
14 (11) **VENTORRO** D Menuisier 3 9-3 ... **W Buick** –
15 (8) 52-3 **CHORUS (45) (F)** W Haggas 3 8-12 ... **T Marquand** ★80

CHEEK PIECES: No. 10.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Chorus, 4 French Master, 6 Royal Approval, 10 Raging Al, Ventorro, 12 Atlantic Convoy, 14 Mutaawid, 16 Sir Lowry's Pass, Kingdom Of Stars, Desperate Dan, Give It To Me Oj, 20 Others.
2023: Westerton 3-9-4, Ryan Moore 10-3 (A King), drawn (2), 7 ran.

4.25 BETMGM FILLIES' HANDICAP 3YO
£10,308 (4) 1m (8)

1 (4) 221-7L2 **GET THE MUSIC ON (10)** C Cox 9-12 ... **J Crowley** ★86
2 (8) 252- ● **HOT FASHION (204)** R Beckett 9-9 ... **Rossa Ryan** 82
3 (5) 60-4914 **ZIGGY'S PHOENIX (14) (D)** R Hannon 9-9 ... **S M Levey** 84
4 (6) 633L-13 **LOKANA (23)** D O'Meara 9-8 ... **D Tudhope** 81
5 (1) 327-222 **GET JIGGY WITH IT (13)** C Hills 9-7 ... **W Buick** 79
6 (7) 7316-27 **ASTEVERDI (42)** Alice Haynes 9-6 ... **T Marquand** 84
7 (2) 6393-65 **IMPERIAL EXPRESS (17)** A Balding 9-5 ... **O Murphy** 80
8 (3) 61-175 **ROYAL VELVET (8)** W Knight 9-2 ... **N Callan** 85

CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Hot Fashion, 7-2 Get The Music On, 5 Get Jiggy With It, 7 Royal Velvet, 8 Lokana, 12 Imperial Express, Ziggy's Phoenix, Asteverdi.
2023: Rowayeh 9-9, Dane O'Neill 10-3 (Owen Burrows), drawn (4), 7 ran.

5.00 BETMGM HANDICAP
£10,308 (4) 1m 6f (11)

1 (2) 121154- **BASHFUL BOY (J26) (D)** D Pipe 8 9-10 ... **N Callan** 90
2 (5) 29-9031 **CAVERN CLUB (21) (F)** James Owen 4 9-7 ... **Rossa Ryan** 92
3 (7) 12122-L **BLINDEDBYTHELIGHTS (50)** Sir M Prescott 4 9-7 **Doubtful** 92
4 (11) 4L/19-35 **DUKE OF VERONA (30) (C&D)** Harry Eustace 6 9-6 **O Murphy** 92
5 (4) 8L8212 **DANCING IN PARIS (8)** I Williams 4 9-5 ... **W Buick** 94
6 (8) 683L52 **RHYTHMIC INTENT (10)** S C Williams 8 9-4 ... **S De Sousa** 95
7 (6) 453-1L0 **CINNODIN (21) (C&D)** R Hughes 4 9-4 ... **David Egan** 91
8 (1) 3/415L-6 **SALIGO BAY (26)** G & J Moore 6 9-1 ... **J Crowley** 89
9 (10) 55421- ● **COCO ROYALE (243)** W Haggas 4 8-13 ... **T Marquand** 93
10 (9) 23-0035 **WESTERN STARS (21)** J Boyle 5 8-11 ... **K Shoemark** ★96
11 (3) 4/4542-L **ALSHADHIAN (21)** A King 4 8-8 ... **S Osborne** 92

BLINKERS: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 3 Coco Royale, 7-2 Cavern Club, 4 Dancing In Paris, 8 Rhythmic Intent, 10 Duke Of Verona, 12 Western Stars, Bashful Boy, 14 Saligo Bay, 16 Others.
2023: Alnilam 4-9-1, David Egan 17-2 (M Harris), drawn (6), 8 ran.

THE SCOUT

1.50 Arrange
2.25 QUINTUS ARRIUS
3.00 Klondike
3.35 Serried Ranks
4.10 The Strikin Viking
4.45 Theme Park
5.20 International Girl

1.50 QUEEN MOTHER'S CUP HANDICAP ITV4
£12,222 (Cl 3) 1m 3f 188yds (18 dec)

1 151339 ANDALEEP (29) (C,D,T) 8 10 9 Miss B Hampson 84
(5) Runs: 61 Wins: 11(F,A,GS,G) Places: 14 £146,500
Trainer: D & C Kubler Owner: Mr James Finch

2 441666 BARYSHNIKOV (16) 8 10 4 Miss A Keighley 84
(18) Runs: 51 Wins: 7(S,F,GS,G) Places: 16 £120,378
Trainer: D & N Barron Owner: Mr John Knotts & Partner

3 R112-94 ● ARRANGE (31) (D) 6 10 3 Miss J Townend ★88
(4) Runs: 18 Wins: 3(S,F,G) Places: 7 £42,108
Trainer: M Todhunter Owner: Mrs Kathleen Hall

4 17-7L13 CHASE THE DOLLAR (10) (D) 6 10 3 Miss K McCammon(7) 84
(14) Runs: 32 Wins: 5(F,A) Places: 11 £67,741
Trainer: D Loughnane Owner: Lydonford Ltd

5 72810-0 CARDANO (31) (D) 8 10 2 Miss M Jordan 84
(7) Runs: 35 Wins: 7(S,F,A,GS) Places: 11 £119,241
Trainer: B Brookhouse Owner: Mr R S Brookhouse

6 3L4-155 LORD MELBOURNE (15) (T) 4 9 13 Miss Serena Brotherton 84
(9) Runs: 8 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £14,521
Trainer: R Beckett Owner: Clarendon Partnership

7 935830 TOSHIZOU (13) 6 9 13 Miss Amy Collier 86
(1) Runs: 24 Wins: 1 Places: 7 £51,355
R Fell & S Murray Owner: Nick Bradley Racing 3 And Partner

8 L105-70 THUNDERING (31) (D) 5 9 13 Miss Olive Nicholls 82
(16) Runs: 19 Wins: 2(A,GS) Places: 4 £56,658
Trainer: K Ryan Owner: Mr S Ryan

9 0310-79 QUEEN OF SEDUCTION (13) (D) 5 9 12 Miss A Hourigan(7) 87
(8) Runs: 19 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 5 £21,790
Trainer: G T Hourigan (IRE) Owner: Mrs G Hourigan

10 406-62L CHILLHI (21) 4 9 12 Miss S Bowen 84
(12) Runs: 16 Wins: 2(A) Places: 2 £25,297
Trainer: B Ellison Owner: Mr P Boyle

11 25756-2 PIECEDERESISTANCE (31) 6 9 8 Miss Becky Smith 86
(6) Runs: 18 Wins: 2(F) Places: 4 £42,751
Trainer: M Hammond Owner: Ryder And Alex Sugden

12 605175 MY LITTLE QUEENS (13) 6 9 7 Miss C Brooks(5) 85
(13) Runs: 34 Wins: 7(A,GS,G) Places: 4 £65,373
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Richard Fahey Ebor Racing Club Ltd

13 03LL-00 GREEN TEAM (36) 5 9 7 Miss K Martin(7) 74
(2) Runs: 18 Wins: 1(F) Places: 1 £19,452
Trainer: I Williams Owner: Ian Williams Racing Club

14 346-78L HALIPHON (15) (C,D) 7 9 6 Miss I Oliver(7) 85
(15) Runs: 41 Wins: 4(G) Places: 7 £172,189
Trainer: I Williams Owner: Ne-Chance

15 85-5223 WHIMSY (12) (D) 5 9 5 Miss A B O'Connor 82
(10) Runs: 18 Wins: 2(F) Places: 7 £37,899
Trainer: A McCann (IRE) Owner: Miss Rita Shah

16 8256-81 GIBSIDE (7) (C&D) 5 9 4 Mrs Emily Roberts 83
(11) Runs: 25 Wins: 5(F,GS,G) Places: 5 £44,241
T Easterby Owner: Elsa Crankshaw, Gordon Allan & Partner

17 0-07831 SOUTHERN VOYAGE (13) (D,F) 6 9 4 Miss L Teal(5) 83
(17) Runs: 21 Wins: 5(F,A,GS,G) Places: 1 £35,885
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Richard Fahey Ebor Racing Club Ltd

18 2213 STAR JASMINE (13) (F) (S) 3 9 1 Miss Sophie Smith 83
(3) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £24,085
Trainer: G Boughey Owner: Lady Bamford

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5, 13 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 9, 14 HOOD: No. 11.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 2, 5, 6, 9, 18.

SP FORECAST: 11-2 Star Jasmine, 7 Arrange, 8 Lord Melbourne, Piecederesistance, Gibside, 10 Southern Voyage, Whimsy, 12 Chase The Dollar, Baryshnikov, My Little Queens, 14 Others.

2023: Kihavah 6-10-6, Miss J Townend 11-4 Fav (A Keatley), drawn (6), 15 ran.

GUIDE: The unexposed **STAR JASMINE** went close to making a winning handicap debut at Hamilton (1m1f, gd) earlier in the month. This extra distance should suit George Boughey's filly and she looks worth sticking with. **Piecederesistance** finished runner-up over C&D (gd), with **Arrange** back in fourth and **Gibside** well beaten. The latter has subsequently franked that form with a victory at Catterick (1m6f, gd-fm), while **Southern Voyage** scored on slower ground at Doncaster (1m4f, gd-sft) and is 3lb higher. **Lord Melbourne** is partnered by a leading amateur rider, and **Whimsy** is another to note.

2.25 SKY BET MACMILLAN HANDICAP ITV4
£15,462 (3) 7f (20)

1 10106L- BEAR FORCE ONE (280) (D) 8 10 2 C Beasley 93
(10) Runs: 27 Wins: 6(F,A,GS,G) Places: 3 £90,434
Trainer: M Dods Owner: Joe Bear Racing

2 LL8-685 BOARDMAN (21) (C&D) 8 9 12 D Allan 91
(7) Runs: 45 Wins: 8(F,S,GS,G) Places: 3 £165,962
T Easterby Owner: Mr Ball, Mr Hodkinson, Mr Malley & Ptr

3 09/8138- YERMANTHERE (258) (D) 6 9 12 P Dennis 97
(6) Runs: 18 Wins: 2(S) Places: 2 £24,428
Trainer: T Easterby Owner: Habton Racing

4 352-0L0 LONDONER (35) (T) 4 9 12 P Mulrennan ★101
(3) Runs: 12 Wins: 1(A) Places: 1 £29,191
Trainer: J Goldie Owner: Mr J Fyffe

5 211/80-3 YANIFER (21) (C&D,T) 6 9 12 C Planas(3) 93
(14) Runs: 27 Wins: 7(S,F,GS,G) Places: 7 £48,701
Trainer: H Bethell Owner: Mr T Arnott And Mr W Bethell

6 470045- AUSTRIAN THEORY (258) (D) 5 9 11 C Murtagh 93
(18) Runs: 25 Wins: 3(F) Places: 1 £106,446
Trainer: T Easterby Owner: The Wolf Pack 2 And Partner

7 5/13141 NEW IMAGE (14) (D,F) 4 9 10 Mark Winn(3) 94
(11) Runs: 7 Wins: 3(A,G) Places: 1 £28,650
Trainer: D O'Meara Owner: Thoroughbred British Racing

8 3107-24 AALTO (28) (D) 4 9 10 R L Moore 96
(13) Runs: 9 Wins: 2(A,GS) Places: 2 £61,303
Trainer: I Williams Owner: Bell, Lyons & James

9 2547-L1 DIAMONDONTHEHILL (28) (D) 6 9 9 C Rodriguez 96
(16) Runs: 29 Wins: 5(F,G) Places: 5 £49,814
Trainer: M Dods Owner: Sekura Group And John Burns

10 30/266-0 STONE SOLDIER (158) (D) 7 9 9 Oisin Orr 96
(4) Runs: 35 Wins: 8(S,A,G) Places: 4 £76,666
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: The Cool Silk Partnership

11 63261-6 MUDAMER (28) (D) 5 9 9 S James 93
(15) Runs: 18 Wins: 3(F,G) Places: 2 £31,976
Trainer: G Harker Owner: Mr J Beamson & Mr P Harker

12 346-294 WOVEN (31) (C&D) 8 9 9 C Lee 98
(1) Runs: 46 Wins: 3(S,GS,G) Places: 18 £164,615
Trainer: M Dods Owner: Mr John Sagar And Dunham Trading Ltd

13 21-4808 QUEST FOR FUN (14) (C&D) 6 9 8 JP Sullivan 96
(20) Runs: 22 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 4 £49,280
Trainer: T Easterby Owner: Reality Partnerships Xvi

14 6000-09 TACTICAL (14) (D) 6 9 7 J Hart 91
(19) Runs: 24 Wins: 3(S,G) Places: 1 £100,502
Trainer: J Camacho Owner: Mr N O'Keeffe

15 79805-7 CARNIVAL ZAIN (21) (D) 7 9 1A Brookes(5) 95
(9) Runs: 33 Wins: 6(F,A,GS,G) Places: 7 £69,047
Trainer: M Hammond Owner: Newroc & Partner

16 L3L8-43 ● QUINTUS ARRIUS (29) 4 9 0 T Eaves 95
(8) Runs: 11 Wins: 2(A,GS) Places: 3 £29,099
Trainer: P Niven Owner: Clova Farms Ltd

17 647770 ELIGIBLE (7) (C&D) 8 8 11 Lewis Chalkley(7) 94
(5) Runs: 49 Wins: 7(F,A) Places: 10 £60,296
Trainer: M & D Easterby Owner: Mr L Westwood & Partner

18 94L5-50 TOLSTOY (21) 5 8 11 B Robinson 95
(12) Runs: 34 Wins: 4(S,A,GS,G) Places: 4 £55,133
Trainer: B Ellison Owner: Mr Kristian Strangeway

19 43-5165 GOLDEN PHARAOH (96) (D) 3 8 9 H Shaw 92
(2) Runs: 11 Wins: 2(S,A) Places: 1 £30,870
Trainer: S Dixon Owner: Mr S Chappell , Mr R Teatum & Partner

20 7424-1 OUR HAVANA (60) (D) 3 8 2 C Hardie 83
(17) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(G) Places: 1 £11,582
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Macintosh Knaggs Partnership

VISOR: No. 14 TONGUE STRAP: No. 13 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 10, 16.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 19, 13, 10, 14, 18, 12, 5, 3.

SP FORECAST: 6 Aalto, 13-2 New Image, 8 Yanifer, Our Havana, Woven, 12 Mudamer, Boardman, Quintus Arrius, 14 Others.

2023: Wild Lion 5-9-13, Kieran O'Neill 8-1 (S bin Suroor), drawn (8), 13 ran.

GUIDE: New Image should go well again after scoring at Musselburgh (7f, gd), but Newmarket (7f, gd) winner **Our Havana** faces a tougher task in this higher grade. **Yanifer** went close at Chester (7f, gd-sft) last month and may prefer some cut in the ground, while **Woven** steps back up in distance after a good fourth here (6f, gd). **AALTO** has slipped down the weights and finished a creditable fourth at Newbury (1m, gd), having failed to settle in the early stages. He looks worth a try over this shorter trip, with Ryan Moore's presence in the saddle taking the eye.

3.00 SKY BET GRAND CUP STKS (LISTED) ITV4
£39,697 (1) 1m 5f 188yds (6)

1 1262-5L CHESSPIECE (23) (C) 4 9 2 P Mulrennan 119
(5) Runs: 10 Wins: 3(F,A,GS) Places: 3 £162,346
Trainer: S & E Crisford Owner: Godolphin

2 124L-4 ● KLONDIKE (31) (F) 4 9 2 R L Moore 115
(1) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(S) Places: 1 £49,146
Trainer: W Haggas Owner: Jonsson/magnier/tabor/fittocks Stud

3 13103-2 REAL DREAM (42) (D) 5 9 2 Oisin Orr 118
(2) Runs: 9 Wins: 3(F,A,GS) Places: 2 £51,001
Trainer: Sir M Stoute Owner: Mr Saeed Suhail

4 143L-31 RELENTLESS VOYAGER (14) (T) 4 9 2 H Turner ★120
(4) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(A,GS) Places: 4 £58,768
Trainer: A Balding Owner: Relentless Dreamers Racing & Partner

5 L427-36 SALT BAY (28) (T) 4 9 2 H Crouch 119
(6) Runs: 8 Wins: 1(GS) Places: 2 £56,933
Trainer: R Beckett Owner: Valmont

6 292926- DIVINE JEWEL (182) 5 8 11 J Mitchell 113
(3) Runs: 15 Wins: 1(A) Places: 8 £67,095
Trainer: R Varian Owner: Mr Koji Maeda

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 4. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Relentless Voyager, 3 Klondike, 7-2 Real Dream, 6 Chesspiece, 7 Salt Bay, 12 Divine Jewel.

2023: Quickthorn 6-9-2, Jason Hart 7-4 (H Morrison), drawn (1), 6 ran.

GUIDE: Real Dream (second) made a pleasing return to action at Newmarket (1m4f, gd) when up against a rival with very few miles on the clock. The form has a strong look, with the winner acquitting himself with credit in a Group 3 and the third, the reopposing **Relentless Voyager**, a comfortable winner at Epsom (1m4f, gd-sft) on Derby day. Andrew Balding's colt was also returning from a spell off the track at HQ and duly improved, but the pair face an interesting contender in **KLONDIKE**. Fourth on his return at the Dante meeting here (1m4f, gd), that effort will have blown the cobwebs away and the extra couple of furlongs should play to his strengths.

3.35 MACMILLAN SPRINT HCAP 3YO ITV4
£51,540 (2) 6f (19)

1 35-1910 JAMES'S DELIGHT (28) (D,F,T) 9 9 R L Moore 110
(1) Runs: 8 Wins: 3(S,GS,G) Places: 1 £51,899
Trainer: C Cox Owner: Paul & Clare Rooney

2 1311-11 WOODHAY WONDER (27) (D,T) 9 5 C Rodriguez 109
(8) Runs: 7 Wins: 5(F,G) Places: 1 £216,870
Trainer: T Ward Owner: Mr Matthew Webber & Mr Toby Ward

3 115 POCKLINGTON (28) (D) 9 3 H Russell 105
(10) Runs: 3 Wins: 2(A) Places: 1 £14,331
Trainer: G Oldroyd Owner: Bond Thoroughbred Limited

4 1518-5 ● SERRIED RANKS (50) (D,T) 9 0 H Crouch 105
(7) Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S,GS) Places: 1 £36,103
Trainer: R Beckett Owner: HM The King & HM The Queen

5 15214- TROPICAL ISLAND (245) (C&D) 8 13 Oisin Orr 104
(5) Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 1 £29,384
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Sheikh Rashid Dalmook Al Maktoum

6 11-14 GARFIELD SHADOW (27) (D) 8 11 B Garritty 107
(16) Runs: 4 Wins: 3(A,GS,G) Places: 1 £27,324
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Sheikh Juma Dalmook Al Maktoum

7 111-034 ALMARADA PRINCE (9) (D) 8 10 W Pyle(5) 111
(2) Runs: 7 Wins: 3(A,G) Places: 1 £18,578
Trainer: Craig Lidster Owner: Alfa Site Services Ltd

8 11-6 ELMONJED (31) (D,F) 8 10 C D Hayes 106
(6) Runs: 3 Wins: 2(F,G) Places: 1 £11,150
Trainer: W Haggas Owner: Shadwell Estate Company Ltd

9 0271- COVER POINT (274) 8 9 S James 103
(14) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(G) Places: 1 £10,234
Trainer: J Camacho Owner: Bronte Collection 1

10 3120-42 TWILIGHT ROMANCE (48) (C&D) 8 8 J Hart ★112
(13) Runs: 6 Wins: 1(F) Places: 3 £29,791
Trainer: J & S Quinn Owner: S Radymski & We Do Racing

11 123-2 ZIGGY'S CONDOR (31) (D,F) 8 8 J Leavy(5) 109
(9) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(G) Places: 2 £73,570
R Fahey Owner: Middleham Park Racing&Simon,les Wood

12 2190-7 MIDNIGHT AFFAIR (29) 8 7 C Hardie 98
(12) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(F) Places: 1 £27,867
Trainer: R Fahey Owner: Richard Fahey Racing Club And Partner

13 1L0-4 CHIEF MANKATO (58) (D,T) 8 7 Tom Kiely-Marshall(7) 107
(17) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(F) Places: 1 £6,692
Trainer: C Hills Owner: Mr J H Widdows

14 32107-5 WE NEVER STOP (42) (D) 8 5 R Scott 104
(19) Runs: 6 Wins: 1(F) Places: 2 £33,140
Trainer: K Ryan Owner: Mr B T McDonald

15 32-1L3 IMPERIAL GUARD (36) (D,T) 8 5 H Turner 106
(3) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(A) Places: 3 £12,680
Trainer: A Balding Owner: Clipper

16 121457 MEDIA SHOOTER (28) (D) 8 3 Jimmy Quinn 109
(11) Runs: 12 Wins: 3(A) Places: 1 £40,804
Trainer: K R Burke Owner: Pompey Ventures 1

17 311206 VINCE L'AMOUR (14) (D) 8 2 JP Sullivan 110
(15) Runs: 9 Wins: 2(S) Places: 2 £20,039
Trainer: T Easterby Owner: Reality Partnerships X

18 10-03L9 THE COFFEE POD (14) (C&D,T) 8 2 Mia Nicholls(5) 109
(4) Runs: 8 Wins: 1(G) Places: 2 £24,179
Trainer: R Hannon Owner: Middleham Park Racing Lxxvii

19 02-1772 RUN BOY RUN (9) (D) 8 2 A Brookes(5) 108
(18) Runs: 8 Wins: 1(A) Places: 4 £15,415
Trainer: R Spencer Owner: Phil Cunningham

TONGUE STRAP: No. 17 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 18, 19.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: No. 4, 5, 17.

SP FORECAST: 13-2 Elmonjed, 7 Ziggy's Condor, 8 Woodhay Wonder, Pocklington, James's Delight, 12 Chief Mankato, Garfield Shadow, Serried Ranks, 14 Others.

GUIDE: ELMONJED was sent off a short price when sixth on his return at the Dante meeting here (7f, gd) and the fact connections opt to drop back to 6f suggests the son of Blue Point has sharpened up considerably since. The addition of cheekpieces and a notable jockey booking further enhance his credentials. **James's Delight** is better judged on his Newmarket (6f, gd) victory at the Guineas fixture and the return to handicap company makes him a key player, with his trainer and jockey successfully teaming up in this in 2022. Others to note include **Woodhay Wonder**, **Pocklington** and **Tropical Island**.

4.10 EBFSTALLIONS.COM MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
£11,070 (3) 6f (11)

1 (5) 5 ATOMIC MASS (21) M & D Easterby 9-7 S Gray 77
2 (6) CRACKING MAN K R Burke 9-7 S James –
3 (9) 9 EPICURIAN LAD (21) R Fahey 9-7 B Garritty 53
4 (1) HILL STREET BLUES R Fahey 9-7 J Garritty –
5 (11) MISSION IN MALTON T Easterby 9-7 JP Sullivan –
6 (4) SHAMAL WIND H Palmer 9-7 P Mulrennan –
7 (3) THE CHILDE OF HALE Craig Lidster 9-7 H Turner –
8 (7) ● THE STRIKIN VIKING K Ryan 9-7 T Eaves –
9 (8) 4 TIGER MASK (9) K R Burke 9-7 C Lee 80
10 (2) 55 TUSCAN POINT (31) R Fahey 9-7 Oisin Orr 72
11 (10) 2 U SURE DO (9) (F) T Easterby 9-7 D Allan ★86

SP FORECAST: 3 U Sure Do, 9-2 Tiger Mask, 6 The Strikin Viking, 7 Cracking Man, Shamal Wind, 8 Tuscan Point, 10 Hill Street Blues, Atomic Mass, 20 Others.

4.45 ICE CO MACMILLAN HANDICAP
£10,730 (4) 1m 177yds (17)

1 (13) 912427 DINGLE (26) J Camacho 6 9-10 C Rodriguez 93
2 (10) 04-3991 TITAN ROCK (42) J & S Quinn 6 9-9 J Hart 92
3 (17) 500-639 ORBAAN (15) (C) D O'Meara 9 9-7 S Gray 96
4 (5) 759-099 PISANELLO (17) D O'Meara 7 9-7 Mark Winn(3) 85
5 (9) 6726-L5 ● THEME PARK (29) N Tinkler 4 9-6 R Scott 96
6 (1) 933422 ZOZIMUS (17) D O'Meara 6 9-3 B Robinson 94
7 (16) 413/804- JOHN CHARD VC (317) R Fell & S Murray 4 9-3 C Lee 90
8 (6) 41/47-21 BOY DOUGLAS (12) M Dods 4 9-1 C Beasley 93
9 (2) 304-440 CLEAR ANGEL (12) S Corbett 6 9-1 C Hardie 93
10 (3) 185461 HALE END (28) M Dods 4 9-1 P Mulrennan 92
11 (14) 626-304 BARLEY (17) T Easterby 5 8-13 D Allan 95
12 (4) L518-90 NO NAY NICKI (21) R Fahey 5 8-13 Oisin Orr 95
13 (11) 2-57057 MOSTAWAA (99) (C&D) H Main 8 8-13 J Mitchell 85
14 (8) 032259 HARSWELL DUKE (19) (D) R Fell & S Murray 6 8-11 H Russell 97
15 (12) 5682L-0 UTILIS (28) B Ellison 4 8-10 B Garritty 93
16 (15) 20/806-7 CISCO DISCO (12) R Fahey 6 8-8 Ethan Tindall(7) 81
17 (7) L42-657 POET'S DAWN (17) (C&D) T Easterby 9 8-5 Amie Waugh(5) ★98

VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 10, 11 HOOD: Nos. 2, 12. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 8, 16, 14, 4, 17.

SP FORECAST: 11-2 Titan Rock, 6 Boy Douglas, 13-2 Hale End, 7 Zozimus, 10 Orbaan, 12 Clear Angel, Theme Park, Dingle, 14 Others.

5.20 FORDY MARSHALL HANDICAP
£10,730 (4) 6f (22)

1 (12) 01/10-97 GOOD KARMA (28) J Ferguson 4 10-2 H Crouch 80
2 (6) 3L080-2 LUCKY MAN (28) (C&D) R Spencer 5 10-2 J Hart 87
3 (9) 8282-41 ● INTERNATIONAL GIRL (10) (C&D) R Fahey 6 10-2 J Leavy(5) 87
4 (15) 12-6752 ABATE (10) (C&D) Adrian Nicholls 8 10-1 Mia Nicholls(5) 86
5 (5) 33-7502 ANOTHER INVESTMENT (15) (C&D) N Tinkler 5 10-1 J Mitchell 85
6 (4) 35-6311 TIRIAC (21) (C&D,F) J Channon 4 10-0 C Rodriguez 87
7 (19) 0067-2L IT JUST TAKES TIME (34) (C,D) M Walford 6 10-0 J Garritty 87
8 (18) 233-822 HOLKHAM BAY (21) (D) W Knight 4 10-0 Brandon Wilkie(5) 88
9 (17) 2619-LL ROCK OF ENGLAND (28) (D) P Midgley 4 10-0 Mark Winn(3) 89
10 (11) 9L07L-0 THE RIDLER (14) R Fahey 4 9-13 Oisin Orr 79
11 (14) 81693-8 EQUIANO SPRINGS (28) (D) T Tate 10 9-11 C Lee 85
12 (2) L7-L920 ROUNDHAY PARK (21) (C&D) N Tinkler 9 9-10 F McManoman 88
13 (20) 011-08L ROACH POWER (28) (D) T Easterby 5 9-9 D Allan ★91
14 (13) 652223 MUSCIKA (84) (C&D) D O'Meara 10 9-9 B Robinson 89
15 (3) 355042 ROCK OPERA (10) (D) R Fahey 4 9-8 B Garritty 90
16 (21) 042L-8L SPARKLING RED (8) M Dods 4 9-8 C Beasley 89
17 (1) 55-3514 DARK SIDE THUNDER (35) (D) Jessica Macey 5 9-8 H Shaw 87
18 (22) 3-69351 DIGITAL (9) (D) R Carr 6 9-6 JP Sullivan 87
19 (8) 64-3300 DANZAN (21) (D) T Easterby 9 9-6 P Dennis 87
20 (16) 3-15106 TRILBY (21) (D) S England 4 9-5 S Gray 88
21 (10) 655-323 GHATHANFAR (7) (C,D) T Waggott 8 9-2 Dale Swift 89
22 (7) 63-0536 MUSIC SOCIETY (7) (D) T Easterby 9 8-13 C Hardie 85

VISOR: Nos. 9, 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 13 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 6, 17, 19, 21 HOOD: No. 16. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 19, 18, 7, 14, 22, 13, 12, 6, 20.

SP FORECAST: 7 Tiriac, 8 Holkham Bay, 10 Digital, Lucky Man, International Girl, Rock Opera, 12 Dark Side Thunder, Another Investment, 14 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Connor Beasley 15% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** W Haggas 18% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 3.00 Chesspiece (blinkers), 3.35 Elmonjed (cheek pieces), Cover Point (wind surgery), 5.20 Good Karma (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.50 My Little Queens(hcp). 2.25 Quintus Arrius(hcp). 3.00 Divine Jewel, Real Dream(hcp). 3.35 Elmonjed(hcp). 4.45 Clear Angel(hcp), Zozimus(hcp). 5.20 Abate(hcp), Ghathanfar(hcp). **DRAW:** Low numbers best on the straight track, especially when soft **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Queen Of Seduction** (1.50) & **Whimsy** (1.50) Ireland; **Yanifer** (2.25) 276 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.25 **Austrian Theory** from C Johnston to T Easterby, **Bear Force One** from R Teal to M Dods, **Golden Pharaoh** from S Caceres to S Dixon, **Yermanthere** from A Kinirons in Ireland to T Easterby. 3.35 **Cover Point** from W Haggas to J Camacho. 4.45 **John Chard Vc** from C Cox to R Fell & S Murray.

INSPIRAL RUNS IN PRINCE OF WALES'S

INSPIRAL's owners have plumped for the Prince Of Wales's Stakes and are backing Kieran Shoemark to deliver.

By **Melissa Jones**

The Royal Ascot race on Wednesday is two furlongs further than the Queen Anne, which opens Tuesday's showpiece event.

Inspiral ran second in the curtain-raiser last year under Frankie Dettori, who signed off with 81 winners overall at the five-day fixture. The Italian enjoyed six top-flight successes on John and Thady Gosden's mare, before he stalled his retirement to ride on in America.

His absence leaves the door open for Shoemark, with a sole royal meeting success on Atty Persse in the 2017 King George V Stakes.

And Chris Richardson, spokesman for owners Cheveley Park, feels optimistic about their newly-formed partnership. "There was a special bond between Frankie and Inspiral – I'm sure Kieran will strike up a similar arrangement," he said.

"He is very familiar with her and they are both in great form."

Between 9mm and 16mm of rain could fall before the meeting gets underway in Berkshire, where the ground was good to firm, good in places yesterday.

ASCOT PLAN: Inspiral

CHESTER SSR

1.35 EBF RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES 2YO £15,288 (Cl 2) 6f 17yds (12 declared)

1 (8) 4 ● ASKTHEBOSS (30) (F) A Keatley 9 7 H Doyle
2 (5) 47 BARMYBLADE (32) T Easterby 9 7 S B Kirrane
3 (1) 2 DEATH OR GLORY (5) (17) R Fahey 9 7 Ryan Sexton
4 (2) 54 SAXONIA (24) C Johnston 9 7 J Fanning
5 (4) 36 THE FLYING SEAGULL (22) H Palmer 9 7 D Probert
6 (6) ANDALPROFIT N Tinkler 9 5 A Jary
7 (12) 4 STAPLEFORD PARK (21) C Fellowes 9 5 Doubtful
8 (10) 4 TACTICAL PLAN (22) E Dunlop 9 5 Doubtful
9 (11) FRANKIES DREAM J Candlish 9 3 J Peate
10 (9) ONE MORE GUINNESS J Candlish 9 3 A Mullen
11 (3) 44 THECOFFEEPODDOTCO (16) R Hannon 9 2 R Kingscote
12 (7) 4 EVA'S EYES (14) Darryll Holland 9 0 F Norton
W-F: Death Or Glory (80); Asktheboss (79); The Flying Seagull (77).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Asktheboss, 4 Thecoffeepoddotco, Death Or Glory, 5 The Flying Seagull, 7 Saxonia, 20 Others.

2.10 EDINBURGH GIN SPRITZ HANDICAP £12,740 (3) 5f 15yds (11)

1 (7) 403 ARECIBO (14) (D) D Carroll 9 10 2 Z Wheatley(3)
2 (10) 513 RADIO GOO GOO (7) (C) P Evans 4 10 1 R Kingscote
3 (4) 388 PAWS FOR THOUGHT (9) (C) D McCain 6 10 0 C Maggs(7)
4 (3) 360 WEN MOON (30) (D) B Haslam 4 10 0 F Norton
5 (8) 250 ● DICKIEBURD (13) (C&D) Craig Lidster 4 9 7 H Doyle
6 (2) 203 COPPER KNIGHT (21) (C&D) T Easterby 10 9 5 S B Kirrane
7 (6) L-10 NEVER DARK (13) (D) I Jardine 7 9 4 J Peate(3)
8 (5) 605 CURIOUS ROVER (14) (D,T) K Scott 3 9 3 C Fallon
9 (1) 236 REIGNING PROFIT (13) (D) R Carr 5 9 2 D Probert
10 (11) L42 COUNT D'ORSAY (9) (C&D) T Easterby 8 9 0 J Fanning
11 (9) 782 GLORY FIGHTER (15) (C&D) P Midgley 8 8 12 Ryan Sexton
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 9, 10.
W-F: Reigning Profit (94); Dickieburd (93); Paws For Thought (92).
SP FORECAST: 4 Copper Knight, 7 Reigning Profit, Radio Goo Goo, 8 Curious Rover, Arecibo, Count D'Orsay, Wen Moon, 10 Others.

2.45 EDINBURGH GIN CANNONBALL HCAP £12,740 (3)1m 2f 70yds (11)

1 (9) 022 BOX TO BOX (36) (C&D) H Palmer 5 9 10 A Keeley(3)
2 (11) 210 CITY STREAK (15) (C&D,F) A Balding 5 9 8 D Probert
3 (3) 729 KING'S CODE (15) (C) P Evans 4 9 6 J Peate(3)
4 (8) L-74 GAASSEE (27) (C&D) A Watson 6 9 4 H Doyle
5 (10) 720 LOYAL TOUCH (15) (D) C Johnston 4 9 2 J Fanning
6 (4) 11/0 GLAM DE VEGA (29) R Varian 5 9 0 R Dawson
7 (5) 3L0 AUTUMN FESTIVAL (15) E De Giles 5 9 0 C Shepherd
8 (1) 23-1 ● HOSANNA POWER (29) (D,F) Sir M Stoute 4 8 13 R Kingscote
9 (7) 62/8 DESERT EMPEROR (12) M & D Easterby 7 8 10 Ryan Sexton
10 (2) L53 WOODSTOCK CITY (36) (D) I Williams 4 8 9 C Fallon
11 (6) L-37 UNITED FRONT (J25) (D) F O'Brien 7 8 6 C Brace
W-Factor: Autumn Festival (106); United Front (105); King's Code (104).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Hosanna Power, 4 Box To Box, 9-2 City Streak, 7 Woodstock City, 15-2 Glam De Vega, 8 Loyal Touch, 12 Others.

3.20 HORSERADISH HANDICAP 3YO £30,576 (2)7f 127yds (14) ITV4

1 (12) 2-L2 WITNESS STAND (37) (C,F) Tom Clover 9 9 H Doyle
2 (4) 833 ● BLUE PRINCE (21) P Evans 9 2 R Kingscote
3 (8) 162- SAILTHISSHIPALONE (246) R Fahey 9 0 Ryan Sexton
4 (10) 116 PRINCESS ALEX (14) K R Burke 8 13 S Feilden(7)
5 (11) 224 LOVE BILLY BOY (15) R Hannon 8 11 F Norton
6 (1) 3-16 TERAABB (36) C Fellowes 8 9 C Shepherd
7 (7) 114 BRUNEL NATION (21) R Hughes 8 9 F Marsh
8 (2) 2-15 MONFRID (21) W Haggas 8 8 C Fallon
9 (9) 2-1L PUREFOY (42) A Balding 8 8 D Probert
10 (14) 631 BURDETT (21) J Channon 8 8 R Dawson
11 (13) 10-3 EXPERT CHOICE (14) R Fahey 8 8 A Mullen
12 (6) 31-0 PITNEY (42) H Palmer 8 6 A Keeley(3)
13 (5) 1-37 SECRET WORLD (7) C Johnston 8 5 J Fanning
14 (3) L-76 MISEMERALD (21) P Kirby 8 2 Jack Enright(7)
W-F: Witness Stand (105); Blue Prince (104); Love Billy Boy (103).
SP FORECAST: 9-2 Witness Stand, 5 Monfrid, 6 Blue Prince, 7 Brunel Nation, 10 Love Billy Boy, Teraabb, 12 Others.
GUIDE: **Witness Stand** bumped into a well-handicapped rival when finishing runner-up over C&D (gd) and if he can find a good early position from his wide draw, he can make his presence felt again. Preference, though, is for **SAILTHISSHIPALONE**. Richard Fahey's charge was last seen finishing second in a valuable race at York (7f, sft) back in October, looking the likely winner before appearing to get lonely out in front. Having been gelded since, a bold bid on his return is expected. **Brunel Nation** and **Blue Prince** are closely matched on recent form and merit consideration.

THE SCOUT

1.35 Asktheboss — 3.55 Rich Belief
2.10 Dickieburd — 4.30 Thankuappreciate
2.45 Hosanna Power — 5.04 Byzantine Empire
3.20 Blue Prince — 5.35 Sax Appeal

3.55 PRECISION FACADES HANDICAP £7,644 (4)1m 7f 196yds (13)

1 (7) 31-9 WIND YOUR NECK IN (87) P Evans 5 9 11 R Kingscote
2 (1) 341 PLUS POINT (14) (F) Harry Eustace 4 9 9 G Wood
3 (3) 3-48 ZIMMERMAN (21) (D) T Easterby 5 9 7 S B Kirrane
4 (13) 020 HAVEYOUMISSEDME (55) (D) I Jardine 6 9 7 A Mullen
5 (11) 8-83 ● RICH BELIEF (21) K Thornton (IRE) 7 9 5 R Colgan
6 (6) 11-0 LUSAKA (54)(T) J & R Flint 6 9 5 Taylor Fisher(3)
7 (12) 8-44 SHARP DISTINCTION (21) Miss A Murphy 5 9 4 H Doyle
8 (2) 5-35 PERCY JONES (21) M Loughnane 5 9 4 F Marsh
9 (8) 52-4 EL BORRACHO (J28) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9 9 3 Ryan Sexton
10 (5) 321 DIAMAND DE VINDECY (9) (D) R Bevis 5 8 13 F Norton
11 (3) 113/ TEQANY (J952) (D) F O'Brien 10 8 12 C Brace
12 (10) 616 QUEENSLAND BOY (42) (D) I Williams 4 8 9 C Fallon
13 (9) 428- BYZANTINE EMPIRE (J33) J & R Flint 7 8 6 Doubtful
W-Factor: Sharp Distinction (92); El Borracho (91); Haveyoumissedme (90).
SP FORECAST: 9-2 Plus Point, 5 Rich Belief, 6 Diamand De Vindecy, 7 Sharp Distinction, 8 Percy Jones, 10 Others.

4.30 EDINBURGH GIN CLASSIC HANDICAP £7,644 (4) 6f 17yds (12)

1 (12) 504 PRINCESS SHABNAM (24) (D) S Woods 5 9 9 Kaiya Fraser(5)
2 (3) 4-22 MYTHICAL PHOENIX (28) J Camacho 4 9 8 J Fanning
3 (11) L7L INDIAN CREAK (33) (D) J Channon 7 9 7 D Probert
4 (8) 4-L0 HYPERFOCUS (31) (D) T Easterby 10 9 7 S B Kirrane
5 (6) 585 MONSIEUR KODI (9) (D) R Fahey 5 9 6 Ryan Sexton
6 (7) 413 SUPREME KING (15) (D) P Evans 4 9 5 R Kingscote
7 (9) L94- FARO DE SAN JUAN (224) (C&D) D Cunha 5 9 5 R Clutterbuck
8 (10) 233 SLAINTE MHATH (17) (D,T) K Scott 6 9 0 C Fallon
9 (5) 3L2 EXALTED ANGEL (26) (D) K R Burke 8 8 13 S Feilden(7)
10 (4) 732 EVOCATIVE SPARK (17) (C) Darryll Holland 5 8 13 F Norton
11 (2) 3-43 ● THANKUAPPRECIATE (32) (D) D Carroll 4 8 11 Z Wheatley(3)
12 (1) 424 KING OF TONGA (5) (C&D) D Carroll 8 8 9 H Doyle
W-Factor: Thankuappreciate (97); Slainte Mhath (96); Supreme King (95).
SP FORECAST: 9-2 Mythical Phoenix, 13-2 Supreme King, 7 Thankuappreciate, Slainte Mhath, 15-2 Monsieur Kodi, 8 Others.

5.04 EDINBURGH GIN SEASIDE HCAP (DIV 1) £7,644 (5)1m 4f 63yds (10)

1 (1) 26-1 RICHARD P SMITH (33) E Dunlop 5 9 11 R Clutterbuck
2 (5) 773 DREAMS ADOZEN (10) (C) C Johnston 4 9 9 J Fanning
3 (6) 7-72 ROCHA DO LEAO (66) Jack Jones 4 9 8 C Shepherd
4 (7) 54-4 ORDER OF MALTA (36) H Palmer 4 9 6 D Probert
5 (9) 16-0 SUTUE ALSHAMS (13) (D) I Jardine 4 9 4 A Mullen
6 (4) 952 TIME TELLS ALL (10) (F) D Carroll 4 9 2 C Fallon
7 (8) 253 PERCY WILLIS (34) (D) J O'Keeffe 6 9 0 F Marsh
8 (10) 867 ACHNAMARA (7) (D) P Kirby 5 8 13 H Doyle
9 (3) 428- ● BYZANTINE EMPIRE (J33) J & R Flint 7 8 11 C Brace
10 (2) 803 GREY FABLE (41) K Thornton (IRE) 4 8 7 R Dawson
W-F: Achnamara (87); Dreams Adozen (86); Order Of Malta (85).
SP FORECAST: 4 Richard P Smith, 9-2 Time Tells All, Order Of Malta, 5 Dreams Adozen, 15-2 Rocha Do Leao, 8 Grey Fable, 10 Others.

5.35 EDINBURGH GIN SEASIDE HCAP (DIV 2) £7,644 (5)1m 4f 63yds (9)

1 (7) 2L-3 TANGO MAN (12) G Boughey 4 9 9 T Jakes(5)
2 (5) 842 ● SAX APPEAL (8) (D) C Johnston 4 9 9 J Fanning
3 (1) 3-77 EYETRAP (21) J Chapple-Hyam 4 9 5 J Peate(3)
4 (8) 9-12 OMAN (21) (C&D) A Carroll 6 9 5 Z Wheatley(3)
5 (9) 221 GORDON GREY (22) (D,F) B Brookhouse 4 9 2 F Norton
6 (2) 11-5 SHE'S A NOVELTY (15) (D) P Evans 4 9 1 R Sanderson(3)
7 (3) 1L5 POLAR PRINCESS (17) (D) P Kirby 4 9 0 H Doyle
8 (4) 565 PRECISION STORM (48) (C) M Loughnane 7 8 12 F Marsh
9 (6) 439 ROSE DONNELLY (29) H Palmer 4 8 9 D Probert
W-Factor: Precision Storm (87); She's A Novelty (86); Rose Donnelly (85).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Oman, 7-2 Gordon Grey, 4 Tango Man, 9-2 Sax Appeal, 8 She's A Novelty, 10 Eyetrap, 14 Others.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Franny Norton 13% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** 2.45 Balding 19% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.10 Wen Moon (tongue strap), 2.45 Gaassee (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.35 The Flying Seagull, Thecoffeepoddotco. 4.30 King Of Tonga(hcp), Mythical Phoenix(hcp), Slainte Mhath(hcp), Supreme King(hcp), Thankuappreciate(hcp). **DRAW:** A fast start give a distinct advantage in sprints.

HEXHAM SSR

4.17 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HCAP HURDLE £4,753 (Cl 5) 2m 48yds (12 declared)

1 27-L MISTER MOODLES (20) R Menzies 6 12 0 A Anderson
2 33/2 ● BYRON HILL (36) P Neville 7 11 12 J Williamson
3 45L- KOPA KILANA (223) M Barnes 7 11 1 Conor Rabbitt
4 6-68 TOSCAN GENIUS (17) B Ellison 7 10 11 D Johnston
5 322 HUIT REFLETS (14) M Walford 7 10 10 T Midgley
6 3/P-6 GINE SACRE (23) Miss P Robson 8 10 5 B Lynn
7 5L-0 MONTY NEVETT (38) M Hammond 5 10 4 Doubtful
8 53-7 FOXWOOD (6) G Bewley 6 10 2 P J Kavanagh
9 2-7L BOYNESIDE (14) F Murtagh 5 10 2 William Maggs
10 P/LP- SCATTERCASH (99) S Cameron 8 10 2 Emma Smith-Chaston
11 57-P RHYME SCHEME (32) P Winks 7 10 2 P W Wadge
12 LL/P- FRANKIES FIRE (56) J Walton 11 10 2 Charlotte Jones
VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 8.
W-F: Mister Moodles (109); Kopa Kilana (106); Byron Hill (105).
SP FORECAST: 2 Byron Hill, 9-4 Huit Reflets, 9-2 Mister Moodles, 8 Gine Sacre, 16 Kopa Kilana, Boyneside, Foxwood, 20 Others.

4.52 ANDY CALVERT HANDICAP CHASE £4,832 (5)1m 7f 133yds (10)

1 5L-1 SHADOWS IN THE SKY (25) (C,F) C Grant 8 12 0 D McMenamin
2 4PP- BREAKING THE ICE (154) (C) G Bewley 9 12 0 J Bewley
3 344- JET PATROL (95) A M Thomson 7 11 9 R Mania
4 8P-5 DREAM JET (36) B Ellison 6 11 6 Craig Nichol
5 P-2L AUGHARUE (13) W Coltherd 7 11 1 S Coltherd
6 2P-2 DIVAS DOYEN (25) S Forster 7 10 12 P W Wadge(3)
7 54-6 ● GOING MOBILE (37) (C&D) S England 9 10 11 J England
8 2L-8 KICKSAFTERSIX (36) (C&D) M Todhunter 8 10 9 Sean Quinlan
9 34-P ROLLERRULER (25) (C&D) W Coltherd 10 10 9 E Austin(5)
10 P-U6 BARLEY BREEZE (17) W Coltherd 7 10 2 R Chapman
BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 6 HOOD: No. 8.
W-F: Kicksaftersix (107); Dream Jet (106); Breaking The Ice (105).
SP FORECAST: 15-8 Shadows In The Sky, 3 Divas Doyen, 7 Dream Jet, Jet Patrol, 10 Going Mobile, 12 Rollerruler, 14 Augharue, 16 Others.

5.27 CLEANSWEEP HANDICAP CHASE £5,043 (5) 3m 41yds (14)

1 1P-L BREAKDANCE KID (31) (D) W Coltherd 6 12 0 S Coltherd
2 7-55 CASTLETOWN (20) (D) L Russell 12 11 13 P W Wadge(3)
3 2L-3 ● RIBEYE (8) (C,D,F) P Atkinson 9 11 8 Thomas Dowson
4 2-P4 LIGHTS ARE GREEN (14) (C&D) G Bewley 7 11 8 J Bewley
5 51-2 MACAVITY (25) T Davidson 6 11 7 H Reed
6 2L-P ARTIC BREEZE (25) L Russell 8 10 12 Craig Nichol
7 3-45 WEST LAWN (25) J Walton 8 10 12 Charlotte Jones(3)
8 6F-5 GUN MERCHANT (31) Mrs A C Hamilton 11 10 8 J Hamilton
9 3P-2 NOT NOW TAYTO (14) T Collier 6 10 7 Sean Quinlan
10 4P-P GOODOLDBILL (42) Mrs J Walton 8 10 4 R Chapman
11 50-P BUTO (F5) M Hammond 7 10 2 Emma Smith-Chaston(3)
12 P3P/ MUROOR (432) H Burns 11 10 2 E Austin(5)
13 LL-P DARK DUOMO (20) M Hammond 6 10 2 C O'Farrell
BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 14 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 7, 10, 12, 14 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 11, 12.
W-Factor: So Be It (108); West Lawn (107); Castletown (106).
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Not Now Tayto, 5 Ribeye, 11-2 Castletown, 10 Others.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Sean Quinlan 15% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** L Russell 15% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 6.00 Mafia Power (wind surgery), Auld Toon Loon (tongue strap, wind surgery). 6.30 Egality Mans (wind surgery), Imperial Data (cheek pieces), 7.00 Famous Response (cheek pieces), Les's Legacy (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 4.17 Frankies Fire. 5.27 Macavity. 6.30 Hartur D'oudairies(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER:** If You Let Me (6.00) Ireland; Minniemum (7.00) 236 miles.

THE SCOUT

4.17 Byron Hill — 6.00 IF YOU LET ME (nb)
4.52 Going Mobile — 6.30 Hartur D'oudairies
5.27 Ribeye — 7.00 Tigga Time

6.00 CLARKE MAIRS NOVICES' HURDLE £7,352 (3)2m 48yds (14)

1 3-11 SHENGAI ENKI (14) (D,T) Dr R Newland & J Insole 5 11 12 H Cobden
2 56-1 ● IF YOU LET ME (29) (D) G Cromwell (IRE) 5 11 8 K M Donoghue
3 AULD TOON LOON (F261) L Russell 5 11 2 D R Fox
4 9-7L FAIRLY FULLING (20) Mrs J Walton 6 11 2 R Chapman
5 1-L4 FAMOUS LISS (20) W Coltherd 6 11 2 S Coltherd
6 4P- MAFIA POWER (157) P Neville 7 11 2 H Brooke
7 6/4-5 STONEGATE (37) B Rothwell 5 11 2 Sean Quinlan
8 1/5-4 STYLISH RECRUIT (30) A M Thomson 6 11 2 R Mania
9 4L-3 UPFORDEBATE (23) P Neville 5 11 2 J Williamson(3)
10 36-6 YAKALEO (32) N Richards 5 11 2 D McMenamin
11 67- AWAY SHE GOES (102) B Ellison 5 10 9 Craig Nichol
12 7 DEAR DOT (20) C Grant 5 10 9 C Bewley
13 5 WESTERDALE (25) M Walford 5 10 9 J Hamilton
14 5/79- WHAT A FLIRTH (324)(T) D Skelton 7 10 9 T Durrell(3)
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6, 8 HOOD: Nos. 2, 4, 10.
W-F: If You Let Me (122); Shengai Enki (113); Famous Liss (102).
SP FORECAST: 13-8 If You Let Me, 5-2 Shengai Enki, 13-2 Auld Toon Loon, 8 What A Flirth, 12 Yakaleo, Famous Liss, 16 Others.

6.30 BILLY TURNBULL HANDICAP HURDLE £7,737 (3)2m 4f 28yds (9)

1 556- CAIUS MARCIUS (182) (C,D) N Richards 13 12 0 B Hughes
2 L2/ CHILINLIKEAVILLAIN (467) (D,T) D Skelton 7 11 12 T Durrell(3)
3 96-9 BARBADOS BUCK'S (35) D Bourke 9 11 11 R Mania
4 4PP- EGALITY MANS (63) P Kirby 10 11 7 J Williamson(3)
5 2-12 ● HARTUR D'OUDAIRIES (25) (C) B Ellison 7 11 5 H Brooke
6 511 WELL EDUCATED (20) (C&D) G Bewley 8 11 5 J Bewley
7 1-51 IMPERIAL DATA (17) (D,F) R Menzies 7 11 5 R Chapman
8 L/P-L ACCIDENTAL REBEL (30) (D) L Kerr 10 11 5 D R Fox
9 81-8 KINGSTON BRIDGE (38) Ewan Whillans 8 10 12 Craig Nichol
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 7.
W-Factor: Barbados Buck's (128); Hartur D'oudairies (127); Caius Marcius (126).
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Well Educated, 3 Chilinlikeavillain, 7-2 Imperial Data, 4 Hartur D'oudairies, 14 Egality Mans, 16 Others.

7.00 IAN WHITE HANDICAP HURDLE £6,205 (4)2m 7f 63yds (11)

1 321/ DINONS (727) (F) B Ellison 11 12 0 Craig Nichol
2 PPP- COOPER'S CROSS (50) W Coltherd 9 11 12 S Coltherd
3 P-51 MINNIEMUM (18) (D,T) H Daly 7 11 5 H Cobden
4 54-2 ● TIGGA TIME (38) A M Thomson 5 11 5 R Mania
5 8-26 LES'S LEGACY (25) (C) S Corbett 7 11 4 N Moscrop
6 OP-0 PURE SIRLOIN (38) S Forster 6 11 4 H Brooke
7 L3-4 SWALLOWS SONG (38) I Jardine 6 11 0 C O'Farrell
8 P-44 DILLARCHIE (25) J E Foster 7 10 7 Emma Smith-Chaston(3)
9 762 SHANTOU MOON (14) (D) W Young Jnr 7 10 6 D R Fox
10 5-51 FAMOUS RESPONSE (28) (D) G Bewley 10 10 5 E Austin(5)
11 L3/ TARTAN COOKIE (531) Ewan Whillans 8 10 2 D McMenamin
VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 8, 10, 11.
W-F: Les's Legacy (116); Minniemum (115); Swallows Song (114).
SP FORECAST: 3 Minniemum, 4 Tigga Time, 5 Les's Legacy, 6 Others.
STABLE SWITCH: 4.17 **Scattercash** from N Twiston-Davies to S Cameron. 5.27 **Macavity** from J Teal to T Davidson, **Muroor** from V Thompson to H Burns, **So Be It** from W G Young to W Young Jnr. 6.00 **Auld Toon Loon** from D O'Meara to L Russell, **What A Flirth** from D E Prendergast in Ireland to D Skelton. 6.30 **Egality Mans** from Charles Clark to P Kirby. 7.00 **Dinons** from M Campion to B Ellison, **Famous Response** from Charlotte Tailford to G Bewley.

BATH SSR

THE SCOUT

1.45 Kiss My Face — 4.05 Organic
2.20 Havana Dance — 4.40 Lennon
2.55 Felicity — 5.15
3.30 Frank The Spark — Andromedas Kingdom

1.45 APPRENTICE HANDICAP £2,983 (Cl 6) 2m 1f 24yds (8 dec)

1 (2) L/3L- THAHAB IFRAJ (J247) Alexandra Dunn 11 9 9 Ethan Jones(5)
2 (4) 500- AL SAYAH (J22) N Mulholland 4 9 8 C Hutchinson
3 (7) 442 ● KISS MY FACE (J25) A Ralph 7 9 6 Jack Doughty(5)
4 (1) 142 TAXIING (7) P Evans 4 9 5 S D Bowen(3)
5 (6) 324- JOHN BETJEMAN (J31) M Gillard 8 9 4 F Daly(7)
6 (3) 846 UTHER PENDRAGON (8) (C) J S Moore 9 8 9 Shariq Mohd(7)
7 (8) L0L- ROBEAM (J11) (D) M Mullineaux 8 8 9 Alec Voikhansky
8 (5) 976 HIGHLAND FLYER (11) J Portman 4 8 9 Olivia Tubb(5)
BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 7 VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 6.
W-Factor: Al Sayah (71); Taxiing (70); Kiss My Face (69).
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Kiss My Face, 10-3 Al Sayah, 7-2 Taxiing, 6 Thahab Ifraj, 8 John Betjeman, 10 Uther Pendragon, 16 Highland Flyer, 25 Robeam.

2.20 FILLIES' NOVICE STKS 2YO £5,211 (4) 5f 10yds (12)

1 (11) 15 KODIBEAT (38) (D) P & O Cole 9 9 Georgia Dobie(3)
2 (9) 221 VIOLET LOVE (7) (D) G Boughey 9 6 P Cosgrave
3 (2) 9 BERMUDA PRINCESS (10) W Haggas 9 2 A Farragher
4 (10) 5 BLUE POINT EXPRESS (10)(T) C Johnston 9 2 J F Egan
5 (1) 87 FREGOLA (11) R Hannon 9 2 Alec Voikhansky(3)
6 (7) 4 ● HAVANA DANCE (21) (F) J Portman 9 2 T Whelan
7 (6) KALAHARI BLUE Ollie Sangster 9 2 L Keniry
8 (8) 6L LIFT LADY (15) K P De Foy 9 2 B Sayette
9 (12) LOUDAN A Balding 9 2 Jason Watson
10 (3) L MISS CAMPANELLA (11) D Shaw 9 2 Millie Wonnacott(5)
11 (4) L MISS SHOW DOWN (36) C Cox 9 2 J Fahy
12 (5) SKELLIG ISLE T Ward 9 2 K O'Neill
W-F: Violet Love (82); Havana Dance (80); Kodibeat (73).
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Violet Love, 4 Havana Dance, 11-2 Kodibeat, 13-2 Loudan, 8 Kalahari Blue, 10 Blue Point Express, 12 Bermuda Princess, 20 Fregola, Miss Show Down, 25 Others.

2.55 EBF NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) £3,942 (5) 5f 10yds (7)

1 (7) 13 CAPO VATICANO (41) (D,F) A Balding 3 9 7 Doubtful
2 (1) L-3 PEARL'S EDGE (21) C Mason 4 9 7 Gina Mangan(3)
3 (3) L ACCRUAL (21) D & C Kubler 3 9 5 P Cosgrave
4 (5) 4 RIVER EDGE (12) C Mason 3 9 5 W Cox
5 (2) 2 BALMORAL LADY (16) E Walker 3 9 0 C Hutchinson(3)
6 (6) 22 CARIBBEAN WIND (46) J Channon 3 9 0 E Greatrex
7 (4) 4 ● FELICITY (25) (F) W Haggas 3 9 0 A Farragher
W-Factor: Caribbean Wind (79); Pearl's Edge (75); Balmoral Lady (90).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Caribbean Wind, 7-2 Pearl's Edge, 5 Felicity, 6 Balmoral Lady, 33 Accrual.

3.30 UNITARY ENGINEERING HANDICAP £2,983 (6) 5f 10yds (12)

1 (12) 576 CABEZA DE LLAVE (18) (D) M Attwater 5 9 11 P Bradley
2 (9) 11L- HAVECHATMA (177) D Ivory 4 9 11 L Keniry
3 (6) 422 MEDIA GUEST (22) M Gillard 6 9 10 J F Egan
4 (2) 163 SUANNI (25) (C,D,F) Darryll Holland 5 9 8 Jason Watson
5 (7) 31-8 SECOND COLLECTION (15) (C&D) A Carroll 8 9 7 Jack Doughty(7)
6 (5) 35-6 ATTY'S EDGE (22) (C&D) C Mason 8 9 6 W Cox
7 (11) 8-85 ● FRANK THE SPARK (17)(T) P Midgley 4 9 3 K O'Neill
8 (3) 94-L KODI HAWK (11) D Shaw 4 9 0 A Farragher
9 (1) 997 CAPTAIN BENTLEY (8) (F) M Mullineaux 5 9 0 C Bennett
10 (8) 466- BATTLE POINT (212) (D) M Attwater 5 9 0 J Fahy
11 (10) 544 LIBERTY BAY (11) (D,F) M Usher 6 9 0 Georgia Dobie(3)
12 (4) 7L8 KATAR (8) Mrs R Ford 4 9 0 Gina Mangan(3)
BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 4 VISOR: No. 11 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 9, 12 HOOD: No. 5.
W-Factor: Frank The Spark (68); Atty's Edge (67); Cabeza De Llave (66).
SP FORECAST: 2 Media Guest, 5 Frank The Spark, 7 Suanni, 8 Liberty Bay, Cabeza De Llave, 10 Others.

4.05 WE GET IT BATH HANDICAP £2,983 (6) 1m 2f 37yds (9)

1 (6) 565 PRECISION STORM (48) (D) M Loughnane 7 10 2 Doubtful
2 (8) 6/LL- COCHIN (303) R G Hawker 4 10 0 C Hutchinson(3)
3 (3) 693 TIDAL STORM (31) Joe Ponting 5 9 7 K O'Neill
4 (1) 245 ALVESTA (25) A Balding 3 9 6 Jason Watson
5 (5) 5-81 ● ORGANIC (3) G Boughey 3 9 5(6ex) P Cosgrave
6 (9) 4L6 ETRETAT (11)(T) C Johnston 3 9 3 L Keniry
7 (7) 114 NILOUFAR (29) Harry Charlton 3 8 12 T Whelan
8 (4) LL-5 KRAKEN FILLY (8) (C&D) Joe Ponting 6 8 11 W Cox
9 (2) LL9- SURFER DUDE (273) Ollie Sangster 3 8 2 A Farragher
VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 8 HOOD: No. 7.
W-F: Precision Storm (68); Tidal Storm (65); Etretat (63).
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Organic, 11-4 Niloufar, 11-2 Alvesta, 8 Tidal Storm, 10 Etretat, 12 Surfer Dude, Kraken Filly, 33 Cochin.

4.40 OLIVIA'S RACEWEAR HCAP 3YO £2,983 (6) 1m (11)

1 (10) 711 BLENHEIM STAR (12) (D) W Knight 9 13 Jason Watson
2 (4) L78- ● LENNON (178) G Boughey 9 9 P Cosgrave
3 (5) 636 ALJADEL (15) (D) R Hughes 9 9 Ethan Jones(7)
4 (6) L4-6 SAXON MAGIC (143) K P De Foy 9 8 B Sayette
5 (7) 416 MEET ME IN MERAKI (24) (C&D) P Evans 9 7 S D Bowen(5)
6 (9) 587 SNEAKY BLINDER (15) T Ward 9 4 A Farragher
7 (1) 544 NEWFANGLED (23) (F) J Portman 9 3 T Whelan
8 (8) 883 KEEN INTEREST (40) Alice Haynes 9 0 K O'Neill
9 (11) 738 BRAMBLE JELLY (19) D F Davis 8 12 Gina Mangan(3)
10 (2) L58 WESTON COURT (15) R Harris 8 11 E Greatrex
11 (3) 974 HOT PATOOTIE (11) S Dow 8 11 P Bradley
TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 1.
W-Factor: Sneaky Blinder (70); Blenheim Star (69); Meet Me In Meraki (68).
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Blenheim Star, 6 Saxon Magic, 13-2 Lennon, 7 Newfangled, 8 Meet Me In Meraki, 10 Bramble Jelly, Keen Interest, Aljadel, 16 Others.

5.15 OLIVIA'S BOUTIQUE HANDICAP £2,983 (6) 1m (12)

1 (5) 8-67 MAWADA (22) A Wintle 4 9 9 Gina Mangan(3)
2 (2) 33L THE SPOTLIGHT KID (13) D Ivory 5 9 9 L Keniry
3 (3) 731 LOCAL BAY (8) (C&D) A Carroll 6 9 9 Jack Doughty(7)
4 (10) 4-11 ● ANDROMEDAS KINGDOM (40) (C&D) M Appleby 6 9 9 S D Bowen(5)
5 (1) 1-67 CEILIDH (32) G Baker 4 9 8 P Cosgrave
6 (12) 130 HAVANA GOLDRUSH (22) (C&D) J & R Flint 5 9 7 W Cox
7 (4) 836 RIVAL (22) (D) J & R Flint 6 9 5 Doubtful
8 (11) 687 EYE OF THE WATER (7) (C&D) R Harris 8 9 4 B Sayette
9 (8) L-47 ALBERTO (31) E Lavelle 4 9 4 O Lewis(7)
10 (6) 5-58 MARAYEL (10) G & J Moore 5 9 4 Jason Watson
11 (9) 341 MARCHETTI (32) J Fox 7 9 1 Georgia Dobie(3)
12 (7) 43L OWER STARLIGHT (8) (D) Daisy Hitchins 6 8 10 T Whelan
BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8, 12 HOOD: No. 10.
W-F: Marchetti (73); Eye Of The Water (72); Ceilidh (71).
SP FORECAST: 3 Andromedas Kingdom, 7-2 Local Bay, 5 Marchetti, 8 Havana Goldrush, 10 Others.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Firm. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Liam Keniry 10% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** C Cox 26% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 3.30 Cabeza De Llave (cheek pieces), 4.05 Tidal Storm (visor), Cochin (wind surgery), 4.40 Sneaky Blinder (tongue strap), Aljadel (cheek pieces), 5.50 Delicatesse (A) (visor), Belle Angelique (A) (blinkers). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.15 Havana Goldrush(hcp). **DRAW:** Low numbers are favoured in races up to a mile. **LONGEST TRAVELLER:** **Frank The Spark** (3.30) 246 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.45 **Kiss My Face** from B Ellison to A Ralph. 4.05 **Cochin** from M Harris to R G Hawker, **Surfer Dude** from W Muir & C Grassick to Ollie Sangster. 5.15 **Havana Goldrush** from J S Moore to J & R Flint.

UTTOXETER SSR

5.07 NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 1) £4,193 (Cl 4) 1m 7f 168yds (11 dec)

1 05-U BASKERVILLE (14) A King 5 11 3 T Bellamy
2 4-36 FIFTYFIFTY (11) L Horsfall 5 11 3 K Brogan
3 32-1 ● HARD AS NAILS (24) (D) F O'Brien 6 11 3 J Hogan(3)
4 91-2 JAFIMGOSO (23) D Skelton 5 11 3 H Skelton
5 4-4 REACH FOR THE MOON (2) (F) J Snowden 5 11 3 Doubtful
6 4/3-9 SHADOW'S (16) T Vaughan 5 11 3 A Johns
7 L6-6 DON RAFAEL (22) M Keighley 4 10 12 S Bowen
8 9-76 RUNAWAY TRAIN (13) James Owen 4 10 12 Lilly Pinchin
9 1/PP- NEAR DARK (224) H Daly 8 10 10 S Twiston-Davies
10 LLP- TARA VANGO (192) J Coulson 5 10 10 Tabitha Worsley(3)
11 P CHARLOTTE SQUARE (14) R Potter 4 10 5 B Poste
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2 HOOD: Nos. 10, 11.
W-Factor: Hard As Nails (111); Reach For The Moon (110); Runaway Train (100).
SP FORECAST: Evens Hard As Nails, 9-4 Jafimgoso, 6 Baskerville, 8 Don Rafael, 16 Runaway Train, 20 Others.

5.40 NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 2) £4,193 (4) 1m 7f 168yds (10)

1 89-B COUNTRY PARK (16) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 11 3 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
2 P9 DUN DANCING (7) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11 3 Toby Wynne(3)
3 7-L MOKORO (35) D Skelton 5 11 3 H Skelton
4 L/85 NEWTON (14) J Coulson 6 11 3 W Shanahan(5)
5 ● VALSAD (FTO) (F) Harry Derham 5 11 3 Paul O'Brien
6 7B SCINTILLANTE (16) A Ralph 4 10 12 D Bass
7 6 ZODIAC STAR (19) A King 4 10 12 T Cannon
8 065-APACHE PRINCESS (289) J Stimpson 5 10 10 P Armson(3)
9 2/6-5 FASHIONELLE (24) F O'Brien 5 10 10 J Best
10 F7-7 MIGHT DO EMERY (14) S-J Davies 6 10 10J Turner(7)
W-F: Fashionelle (105); Zodiac Star (93); Scintillante (92).
SP FORECAST: 4-5 Valsad, 3 Fashionelle, 10 Zodiac Star, Country Park, 12 Mokoro, 14 Scintillante, 25 Others.

6.10 NOVICES' LIMITED HCAP HURDLE £3,248 (5) 2m 7f 207yds (14)

1 43-6 CHANCER DANCER (40) N C Kelly (IRE) 7 11 12 Mr Oran McGill(7)
2 L-04 WESTERN GLEN (27) (F) G Boanas 5 11 10 T Gillard
3 6-L6 MERSEY STREET (16) Jonjo & A O'Neill 6 11 10 R McLernon
4 7L-5 DORCAS ROAD (20)(T) L Russell 6 11 8 S Twiston-Davies
5 7/7-1 ● WE GOTTA GETAWAY (8) D Killahena & G McPherson 7 11 6 K Woods
6 34-P FLY AWHILE JOHNNY (32) Fionn McSharry 6 11 5 J Quinlan
7 F/4-8 STATE OF HONOR (39) T Vaughan 7 11 4 A Johns
8 4LL- MILAN ECHO (54) D Brooke 8 11 3 S Bowen
9 P7-4 JOKER DU CHENET (13) James Owen 5 11 2 C P O'Shea(7)
10 435 POOCH (17) H Dickin 4 11 1 B Harris(3)
11 74-F JUST CHASING MAY (28) B Pauling 5 10 12 B R Jones
12 51P ERIC CARMEN (11) (D) G Hanmer 8 10 12 R T Dunne
13 P7/L EDDIE MUSH (36) Sue Smith 6 10 11 A Doyle(5)
14 5LO- RENEGADE ARROW (155) N Mulholland 8 10 10 J Bowen
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 5, 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 10.
W-Factor: Mersey Street (96); Chancer Dancer (95); Milan Echo (94).
SP FORECAST: 3 We Gotta Getaway, 7-2 Just Chasing May, 7 Western Glen, 8 Joker Du Chenet, Dorcas Road, 10 Others.

THE SCOUT

5.07 Hard As Nails — 7.10 Giulietta
5.40 Valsad — 7.45 Limetree Boy
6.10 WE GOTTA GETAWAY (nap) — 8.15 Crossing The Bar
6.40 Barrakhov — 8.45 Dance The Moon

6.40 QUINNBET NOVICES' HCAP CHASE £3,349 (5) 3m (12)

1 1-12 OUR ZEBO (34) N C Kelly (IRE) 5 12 0 Mr Oran McGill(7)
2 5-47 HAVOCK (16) D Skelton 6 11 12 H Skelton
3 3L-0 METHODTOTHEMAGIC (28) R Phillips 9 11 11 F Lambert(3)
4 P3-P GAMALOU D'ALENE (27) N Twiston-Davies 8 11 9 S Twiston-Davies
5 421 MASKA DU MORVAN (24) T Vaughan 7 11 5 A Johns
6 112 HIGGS (20) (C&D) S-J Davies 11 11 5 J Best
7 3-42 JEAN GENIE (19) T Vaughan 8 11 5 D Noonan
8 P-31 UNWANTED ATTENTION (8) R Potter 6 11 1 S Bowen
9 L2-4 ● BARRAKHOV (28) D Killahena & G McPherson 8 11 0 K Woods
10 33-5 KING OF THE HILL (28) S Allwood 6 10 11 C J Todd
11 75-8 HOLLOW RON (14) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6 10 9 Toby Wynne(3)
12 LP-5 SCOTTSDALE (28) P Winks 11 10 2 J Kington
BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8, 9 HOOD: No. 4.
W-F: Barrakhov (98); King Of The Hill (97); Havock (96).
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Unwanted Attention, 11-2 Higgs, 13-2 Maska Du Morvan, 8 Barrakhov, 10 Others.

7.10 MARES' NOVICES' HCAP HURDLE £3,248 (5) 2m 7f 70yds (16)

1 33-4 OF COURSE YOU CAN (16) N Mulholland 6 12 0 S Twiston-Davies
2 48-2 FAHA BELLE (23) F O'Brien 6 11 12 J J Burke
3 P7-3 KILLYBEGS JET LADY (38)(T) L Russell 7 11 12 A Doyle(5)
4 47-4 CAUGHTINASPELL (14) O Murphy 6 11 10 S Bowen
5 L4-0 TURKEY AND HAM (30) N C Kelly (IRE) 6 11 5 Mr Oran McGill(7)
6 2-21 ● GIULIETTA (2) D Skelton 7 11 12(7ex) H Skelton
7 P-08 DARSI'S DARLING (23) Sue Smith 8 11 3 T Gillard
8 7-54 SHIBUYA SONG (23) R Phillips 5 11 2 F Lambert(3)
9 P-33 ONEFORTHEFAIRGREEN (20) M Keighley 6 11 0 A Wedge
10 6L7 MISTING (16) N King 5 11 0 J Quinlan
11 P-05 CLOVER PASS (14) A Ralph 7 10 6 D Bass
12 PL-L BETTY'S BELLE (34) Tracey Leeson 7 10 6 C Ward(3)
13 P-92 CONNIEGETAWAY (24) J Coulson 5 10 6 Tabitha Worsley(3)
14 46-9 MILANESE ROSE (16) N Mulholland 8 10 5 D E Mullins
15 P4-P STARGAZER BELLE (38) B Case 6 10 3 H Bannister
16 1P/0- BEAN NORTY (179) R Menzies 8 10 3 J Kington
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 5, 14, 16 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 9, 12, 14.
W-Factor: Oneforthefairgreen (101); Misting (100); Betty's Belle (99).
SP FORECAST: 2 Giulietta, 9-2 Faha Belle, 6 Of Course You Can, 8 Killybegs Jet Lady, 12 Caughtinaspell, Shibuya Song, 16 Others.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Sean Bowen 21% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** O Murphy 22% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.07 Fiftyfifty (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 5.40 Mokoro (wind surgery), 6.10 Fly Awhile Johnny (cheek pieces), Pooch (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 6.40 Gamalou D'alene (hood), Maska Du Morvan (tongue strap), 7.10 Bean Norty (tongue strap).

7.45 GROUNDSHORE CUP HCAP CHASE £3,248 (5) 2m 4f (6)

1 2L-1 MALPAS (28) (F) D McCain 9 12 0 T Gillard
2 21-L DUKE OF LUCKLEY (26) (D) M Keighley 7 11 13 J Best
3 4-32 ● LIMETREE BOY (28) Jonjo & A O'Neill 8 11 12 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
4 4P-5 ROLL WITH IT (21)(T) P & M Bowen 8 11 12 J Bowen
5 5P-1 RAJJAMATAZ (30) Dr R Newland & J Insole 6 11 11 C Hammond
6 514 OVER MILK WOOD (16) (C) G Hanmer 8 10 4 J Hogan(3)
BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1.
W-Factor: Rajjamataz (110); Limetree Boy (109); Duke Of Luckley (108).
SP FORECAST: 6-4 Rajjamataz, 11-4 Malpas, 4 Limetree Boy, 13-2 Over Milk Wood, 12 Duke Of Luckley, 16 Roll With It.

8.15 QUINNBET.COM HANDICAP HURDLE £4,066 (4) 2m 7f 70yds (14)

1 74-L UBETYA (25) (C,F) J O'Keeffe 9 12 2 C Hammond
2 P-21 MR TAMBOURINE MAN (14) (D) D Pipe 7 11 12 J Tudor
3 5-41 MY MONTY (20) (C&D) H Evans 7 11 12 B Poste
4 95-5 ● CROSSING THE BAR (31) N Mulholland 7 11 12 D E Mullins
5 LP-5 MOURZOUK (16) T Vaughan 7 11 12 Mr E Vaughan(7)
6 PP-4 MAMOON STAR (33) F O'Brien 6 11 11 J J Burke
7 2-21 PRINCE DE JUILLEY (16) A Ralph 7 11 10 D Bass
8 41-3 BRIANNA ROSE (33) M Keighley 7 11 7 S Bowen
9 3PP- LERMOOS LEGEND (53)(T) P & M Bowen 9 11 5 J Bowen
10 5PL- ROCCO ROYALE (57) Jonjo & A O'Neill 8 11 4 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
11 25-L NORA THE XPLORER (29) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9 11 4 Toby Wynne(3)
12 8-63 BRIGHT SUNBIRD (20) (C) R Menzies 9 11 2 Tabitha Worsley(3)
13 46-3 JUKEBOX D'EDDY (33) T R Gretton 5 10 6 D Noonan
14 5/P-L TOPKAPI STAR (31) (C,T) Ewan Whillans 7 10 2 A Doyle(5)
BLINKERS: No. 11 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 14 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14.
W-Factor: Prince De Juilley (112); Jukebox D'eddy (111); Mamoon Star (110).
SP FORECAST: 11-4 My Monty, 9-2 Mr Tambourine Man, 6 Prince De Juilley, 8 Ubetya, 10 Others.

8.45 MARES' OPEN NH FLAT RACE £2,451 (5) 1m 7f 168yds (10)

1 6-2 DAMZON (39) H Evans 5 11 0 B Poste
2 NEEPS AND TATTIES R Phillips 5 11 0 Doubtful
3 PP-1 O'GRADY'S HILL (48) (F) Harry Derham 5 11 0 Paul O'Brien
4 SHE'S OUR WORLD Miss Zoey Smith 5 11 0 Doubtful
5 51- THAT'LL DO MOSS (126) F O'Brien 5 11 0 J J Burke
6 ALL INN HAND(T) P & M Bowen 4 10 9 S Bowen
7 4- ● DANCE THE MOON (178) A King 4 10 9 T Cannon
8 4 GRANNY SMITH (34) D Pipe 4 10 9 J Tudor
9 L JO JO BINKS (20) D Brooke 4 10 9 Miss P Brown(7)
10 KEEP ON COBBLING H Daly 4 10 9 A Stevens(5)
W-F: Dance The Moon (105); Damzon (98); Jo Jo Binks (41).
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Dance The Moon, 3 O'grady's Hill, 7-2 That'll Do Moss, 6 Damzon, 10 Granny Smith, 12 All Inn Hand, 14 Others.
BEATEN FAVOURITES: 7.45 Duke Of Luckley(hcp ch). 8.15 Brianna Rose(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Chancer Dancer** (6.10), **Our Zebo** (6.40), **Turkey And Ham** (7.10) Ireland; **Dorcas Road** (6.10) & **Killybegs Jet Lady** (7.10) 292 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.07 **Near Dark** from Alexandra Dunn to H Daly. 5.40 **Valsad** from J Osborne to Harry Derham. 6.40 **Gamalou D'alene** from C Willes to N Twiston-Davies, **Jean Genie** from L Price to T Vaughan. 8.45 **Granny Smith** from Benny Walsh in Ireland to D Pipe, **O'grady's Hill** from Robert Tector to Harry Derham, **That'll Do Moss** from John Dawson to F O'Brien.

GOODWOOD: Good to soft-good in places

5.30–ALERTA MAXIMA (J Crowley, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Mollie Foster (14-1) 2; Mapleduran (12-1) 3. 13 ran. ¾, ns. (M Tregoning: 7-2 fav Lightning Force). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.00, £4.00, £3.70. exacta: £63.10. trifecta: £593.10. CSF: £56.84. Non-runner: West Kirby.
6.05–OUR PAPA SMURF (J Haynes, 22-1) 1; Blue Collar (25-1) 2; Papagei (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1¼, 1¼. (G & J Moore; 10-3 fav Myna). Tote: £23.00; pl £5.10, £7.30, £2.20. exacta: £607.40. tricast: £2915.72. trifecta: £4643.70. CSF: £476.45.
6.40–MILLER SPIRIT (T P Queally, 2-1 fav) 1; Enochdhu (4-1) 2; Capone (11-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1l, 1¼. (G & J Moore). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.60, £2.40. exacta: £10.80. tricast: £63.11. trifecta: £63.90. CSF: £9.46. Non-runners: Clan Chieftain, Songo.
7.15–CYPRIOT DIASPORA (R Coakley, 4-1 jt 2nd fav) 1; Gogo Yubari (5-1) 2; Land Of Magic (15-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1¼, 2l. (B Millman; 10-3 fav Lyraisa). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.40, £2.50. exacta: £23.80. tricast: £141.30. trifecta: £122.50. CSF: £23.28. Non-runner: Nancy Rose.
7.50–ENCHANTING (H Doyle, 11-10 fav) 1; Mc Loven (9-2 2nd fav) 2; War Bride (5-1) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 4¾, nk. (A Balding). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £2.00. exacta: £6.50. trifecta: £17.20. CSF: £6.07. Non-runners: Cloud King, Make It Easy.
8.20–DOUBLE TIME (Miss M Jordan, 9-2 jt 2nd fav) 1; Dreamrocker (3-1 fav) 2; Repertoire (15-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾, shd. (Sir M Todd). Tote: £5.60; pl £1.80, £1.50, £2.30. exacta: £22.10. tricast: £96.90. trifecta: £112.50. CSF: £18.47. Non-runners: Global Esteem, Tintoretto.
Placepot: £112.30
(Race 1) 10, 4, 3; (2) 13, 1, 7; (3) 1, 4; (4) 1, 2; (5) 7, 4; (6) 4, 9, 1.
Quadpot: £6.30

MARKET RASEN: Good-good to soft in places

5.15–SPOT ON SOPH (T Midgley, 11-2 jt 2nd fav) 1; Finn Lough (11-4 fav) 2; Charles St (8-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¾, 2½. (S England). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.70, £1.40, £3.20. exacta: £23.70. tricast: £120.52. trifecta: £164.40. CSF: £21.84. Non-runner: Jaxonne.
5.50–PLAY PRETEND (L Edwards, 25-1) 1; Trafalgar Square (11-1) 2; Kalkaroo (18-1) 3. 12 ran. 1l, nk. (Dave Roberts; 9-4 fav Opec). Tote: £28.40; pl £6.40, £3.20, £4.60. exacta: £325.00. trifecta: £3199.80. CSF: £260.10.
6.25–MIKHAILOVICH (G Sheehan, 4-1) 1; Leading Force (16-5 2nd fav) 2; Fazayte (5-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 7l, 6l. (K Bailey; 3-1 fav Hall Lane). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.70, £1.90. exacta: £18.70. trifecta: £76.80. CSF: £17.16.
7.00–CHAOS CONTROL (C Hammond, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Quaresome (12-1) 2; Castel Gandolfo (10-3) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1¼, 7½. (S Edmunds; 5-4 fav Ittack Blue). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.30, £4.20. exacta: £22.00. trifecta: £40.80. CSF: £20.56. Non-runners: Oslo, Parvos.
7.35–STROLL ON BY (Lilly Pinchin, 11-2) 1; Stormin Crossgales (5-1) 2; Gower Prince (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 2l, 17l. (C Longsdon; 7-4 fav Great Samourai). Tote: £6.60; pl £2.80, £2.80. exacta: £34.00. trifecta: £176.40. CSF: £32.22.
8.05–MATTIE ROSS (F Lambert, 5-1 2nd fav) 1; Moro Rock (11-2) 2; Kapamazov (13-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 5½, 2½. (R Phillips; 7-2 fav Fantomas). Tote: £6.00; pl £1.60, £2.30, £2.20. exacta: £34.50. tricast: £178.94. trifecta: £164.10. CSF: £32.32. Non-runners: Clatterbridge, Mrs Kinsella.
Placepot: £1,853.80
(Race 1) 11, 7, 1; (2) 4, 7, 2; (3) 5, 2; (4) 3, 6; (5) 7, 3; (6) 2, 4, 1.
Quadpot: £82.80

NEWTON ABBOT: Good-good to firm in places

5.35–DAME SARRA (James Davies, 10-1) 1; Hard As Nails (8-11 fav) 2; Hurst Hill (28-1) 3. 12 ran. 1¼, 4¼. (Noel Williams). Tote: £11.00; pl £1.90, £1.10, £4.70. exacta: £23.40. trifecta: £228.80. CSF: £18.76. Non-runners: Azamhan, Seeyouinmydreams.
6.10–NO GETAWAY (Charlie Price, 7-1) 1; Only Money (11-1) 2; Sacre Coeur (4-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 6l, 1l. (R L Llewellyn; 6-4 fav War Lord). Tote: £8.00; pl £2.90, £3.30. exacta: £60.80. tricast: £347.51. trifecta: £248.20. CSF: £66.90. Non-runners: Issuing Authority, Matterhorn.

EVENING RESULTS

6.45–CARRIGEEN KAMPALA (J Hogan, 8-1) 1; Grivetana (7-2 fav) 2; Pop The Champagne (9-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2¾, 1½. (F O'Brien). Tote: £9.00; pl £2.50, £1.70, £2.40. exacta: £40.80. tricast: £258.97. trifecta: £286.90. CSF: £36.56.
7.20–BROOMFIELDS CAVE (J Bowen, 4-1) 1; Langley Hundred (15-8 2nd fav) 2; Exmoor Forest (11-2) 3. H'cap 4 ran. nk, 9½. (N Mulholland; 6-4 fav Wonderwall). Tote: £5.00; exacta: £11.60. trifecta: £30.80. CSF: £11.98. Non-runner: Mr Yeats.
7.55–HAMMER DAN (J Tudor, 12-1) 1; Dear Ralphy (6-1) 2; Side Stepper (25-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 1¼, 1¼. (D Pipe; 3-1 fav Stiletto). Tote: £15.70; pl £4.60, £2.30, £6.90. exacta: £129.20. tricast: £1795.31. trifecta: £2897.60. CSF: £81.35. Non-runner: Lucky Lara.
8.25–KING'S CASTLE (B Bromley, 2-1 fav) 1; Ellerton (6-1) 2; Getmetothemoon (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1¼, shd. (J Scott). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.40, £2.00, £2.00. exacta: £15.50. tricast: £50.50. trifecta: £63.90. CSF: £13.21.
9.00–ALAN DE BANKS (S Bowen, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Born In The West (9-2) 2; Tres Bien (40-1) 3. 8 ran. ¾, 4¼. (P & M Bowen; 11-10 fav Delta Force). Tote: £4.60; pl £1.60, £1.60, £7.70. exacta: £18.30. tricast: £771.30. CSF: £21.11. Non-runner: She's Our World.
Placepot: £602.50
(Race 1) 12, 1, 9; (2) 6, 7; (3) 2, 3, 6; (4) 2; (5) 12, 5, 13; (6) 1, 6, 8;
Quadpot: £49.10

LEICESTER RTV

5.17 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STKS (DIV 1) 2YO £3,664 (Class 5) 7f (10 declared)

1 (9) **ANTIQUITY** J Osborne 9 7 .... **W Carver(3)**
2 (7) **ARDADS DREAM** M Usher 9 7 .... **T Heard(3)**
3 (2) 0 **BAYLANDO (21)** M Murphy & M Keady 9 7 .... **D Keenan**
4 (5) ● **CELEBORN (F)** G Boughey 9 7 .... **Billy Loughnane**
5 (1) **CHESNEYS CHARM** M Bell 9 7 .... **K Stott**
6 (3) **FEELING HIGH** Harry Charlton 9 7 .... **D Muscutt**
7 (8) **METRO DUBAI** S & E Crisford 9 7 .... **R Coakley**
8 (6) 7 **PERFIDIA (22)** T Easterby 9 7 .... **D Fentiman**
9 (10) **ALEISHKA** E Dunlop 9 2 .... **Joanna Mason**
10 (4) **WEDADI (F)** C Johnston 9 2 .... **R Hornby**

VISOR: No. 7.
W-Factor: Baylando (47); Perfidia (46).
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Celeborn, 9-2 Metro Dubai, 5 Wedadi, 6 Chesneys Charm, 7 Aleishka, 12 Feeling High, 20 Antiquity, 25 Ardads Dream, 33 Others.

5.48 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STKS (DIV 2) 2YO £3,664 (5) 7f (9)

1 (2) ● **BY THE GLASS** D Loughnane 9 7 .... **Laura Pearson**
2 (9) 0 **CORRIAMO (26)** M Tregoning 9 7 .... **D Costello**
3 (6) 73 **FEARLESS FREDDY (8) (F)** W Muir & C Grassick 9 7 ... **L Edmunds**
4 (5) **9** **FREAK ENCOUNTER (9)** J Osborne 9 7 .... **W Carver(3)**
5 (1) **JACK ANDREA** R Eddery 9 7 .... **Dylan Hogan**
6 (4) **KISSING STRANGERS** Alice Haynes 9 7 ...... **C Howarth(3)**
7 (7) **TESTIMONIAL** T Easterby 9 7 .... **D Fentiman**
8 (8) **SOPELANA** G Scott 9 2 .... **D Keenan**
9 (3) **TIMEFALL** R Beckett 9 2 .... **R Hornby**

W-F: Fearless Freddy (81); Corriamo (69); Freak Encounter (51).
SP FORECAST: 11-8 Fearless Freddy, 11-4 Timefall, 7 Sopelana, 8 Kissing Strangers, 12 By The Glass, Testimonial, 20 Corriamo, 33 Jack Andrea, Freak Encounter.

6.18 LA JOYA GRAN RESERVA HANDICAP £3,664 (5) 1m 2f (9)

1 (8) 181 **ROYAL DREAM (23) (D,F)** E Dunlop 4 9 10 ...... **D Muscutt**
2 (5) 105 **SIEMPRE ARTURO (33) (D)** D & C Kubler 4 9 10 ..... **Dylan Hogan**
3 (6) 4L6 **TARBAAN (23) (D)** Miss A Murphy 5 9 9 .. **R Kavanagh(7)**
4 (7) 600 **MASQOOL (24) (D)** H Evans 6 9 9 .... **Laura Pearson**
5 (1) 169 **GISELLES DEFENCE (13) (D)** I Williams 4 9 7 .... **Josephine Gordon**
6 (9) 946 **TIGER BEETLE (48)** M Rimell 6 9 7 .... **Billy Loughnane**
7 (3) 150- ● **OLYMPICUS (232) (D)** M Appleby 5 9 6 .. **A Rawlinson**
8 (2) 765 **FLIGHT OF ANGELS (9) (D,F)** C Johnston 4 9 1 ... **K Stott**
9 (4) 9L-L **FAVORITE BOY (J13)** M Appleby 4 8 10 ..... **Joanna Mason**

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: Nos. 7, 8.
W-Factor: Flight Of Angels (85); Tarbaan (84); Masqool (83).
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Royal Dream, 5 Flight Of Angels, 11-2 Olympicus, 6 Giselles Defence, Siempre Arturo, 8 Tarbaan, 10 Others.

6.53 HANDICAP £3,140 (6)1m 3f 179yds (12)

1 (11) 123 **DUBAI IMMO (19)** W Stone 5 9 11 .... **Billy Loughnane**
2 (8) 42-5 **SHIP TO SHORE (16)** P Chamings 6 9 11 .... **D Muscutt**
3 (3) 332 **BASILETTE (18) (F)** Seamus Mullins 5 9 9 .... **G Downing**
4 (4) 311 **CAMACHO MAN (11) (C,D)** L Horsfall 7 9 9 .... **R Hornby**
5 (12) 5/5P- **CHICAGO GAL (J11) (F)** M & D Easterby 5 9 9 ... **Joanna Mason**
6 (10) 5-LL **A SHINING MOON (J36)** P Midgley 6 9 9 ... **O McSweeney(3)**
7 (2) 0/7-7 **ZANAGOR (49)** J Feilden 4 9 8 .... **Dylan Hogan**
8 (7) 455 **DEE'S DREAM (12) (D)** M Murphy & M Keady 4 9 7 .... **Sorcha Woods(7)**
9 (5) 637 **FOURSOME (19)** Olly Williams 5 9 6 .... **D Fentiman**
10 (1) 413 **THREE DONS (8) (C)** A Carroll 5 9 2 .... **Molly Gunn(7)**
11 (6) 74-7 ● **LITTLE TIGER (23)** W Stone **4 9 0** .... **Laura Pearson**
12 (9) 8L-L **RAINCLOUD (J75)** M Chapman **4 9 0** **Josephine Gordon**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 8.
W-Factor: Dee's Dream (67); Foursome (66); Dubai Immo (65).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Basilette, 4 Camacho Man, 6 Dee's Dream, 7 Dubai Immo, Ship To Shore, 8 Three Dons, 10 A Shining Moon, 12 Foursome, 16 Others.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Newmarket: STAR JASMINE (1.50 York)
North: DEATH OR GLORY (1.35 Chester)
West: ADAAY IN DEVON (2.40 Sandown)
Lambourn: NILOUFAR (4.05 Bath)

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) T Waggott 71% (1 wins and 4 places from 7 runners), Adrian Nicholls 70% (1/6/10), W Muir & C Grassick 65% (5/8/20), D Skelton 63% (3/9/19), G Boughey 58% (8/6/24), O Murphy 56% (2/3/9), Craig Lidster 55% (5/6/20).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Mr Edward Vaughan 100% (2 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Ryan Moore 82% (5/4/11), Nathan Moscrop 80% (1/3/5), Tom Cannon 75% (2/1/4), Phil Dennis 64% (1/6/11), Harry Skelton 63% (3/9/19), James Doyle 56% (7/8/27).

THE SCOUT

5.17 Celeborn
5.48 By The Glass
6.18 Olympicus
6.53 Little Tiger
7.25 Mutamanni
8.00 Special Mayson
8.30 My Boy Jack
9.00 Wonder Smile

7.25 CHARLES HENRY & SONS HCAP 3YO £5,234 (4) 5f (6)

1 (2) 5L0 **MIDNIGHT LIR (28) (D)** M Dods 9 9 .... **Rhys Elliott(7)**
2 (1) 421 ● **MUTAMANNI (12) (D,F)** G Boughey 9 9 **Billy Loughnane**
3 (6) 6-05 **MASTER OF MY FATE (14) (D)** J & S Quinn 9 4 **P Mathers**
4 (3) 220 **DOCTOR VUBY (14)** M & D Easterby 9 2 ..... **Joanna Mason**
5 (5) 1-30 **WINGED MESSENGER (38) (D)** J Camacho 9 1 .... **O McSweeney(3)**
6 (4) 892 **STASH THE CASH (14) (D,F)** T Easterby 8 12 ...... **D Fentiman**

HOOD: No. 5.
W-Factor: Stash The Cash (91); Winged Messenger (90); Master Of My Fate (89).
SP FORECAST: 11-8 Mutamanni, 10-3 Stash The Cash, 6 Master Of My Fate, 7 Winged Messenger, 8 Doctor Vuby, 10 Midnight Lir.

8.00 WILSON FAMILY HANDICAP £3,664 (5) 6f (14)

1 (14) L-L3 **KODI RED (8) (D)** Darryll Holland 4 10 3 . **Liam Wright(5)**
2 (8) 0L7 **EL MONTEJEAN (17) (D)** M Walford 4 10 3 .... **D Costello**
3 (1) 12-0 **GENTLE ELLEN (40) (D)** D & N Barron 5 10 1 .... **D Nolan**
4 (11) 689- **MOTAGALLY (176) (D)** S Dixon 8 10 1 .... **T Heard(3)**
5 (6) 32-5 ● **SPECIAL MAYSON (63) (C&D)** Mrs P Sly 6 9 11 .... **S W Kelly**
6 (12) 6-43 **YELLOW PAGES (21)** A Watson 3 9 9 .... **J Bryan**
7 (7) 234 **SHARK TWO ONE (7) (C,D)** Jessica Macey 6 9 7 ... **L Edmunds**
8 (9) 507 **THE COLA KID (7) (D)** G Harris 7 9 7 .... **K Stott**
9 (13) 1-25 **RUSHEEN BOY (38) (D)** J Feilden 3 9 6 .... **Dylan Hogan**
10 (4) 244 **CARLTON AND CO (114)** M & D Easterby 5 9 6 ..... **Joanna Mason**
11 (2) 114 **SUB THIRTEEN (21) (D)** A Carroll 3 9 5 .... **W Carson**
12 (3) 0L7 **SOLDIER'S CLASS (40)** E Dunlop 3 9 2 .... **D Muscutt**
13 (5) 364 **BLUE COLLAR LAD (11) (D,F)** Alice Haynes 5 9 1 .. **C Howarth(3)**
14 (10) 5LL **KOJI (33)** I Furtado 3 9 0 .... **Elle-May Croot(7)**

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 8, 9 HOOD: Nos. 2, 9.
W-F: Carlton And Co (75); Shark Two One (74); El Montejean (73).
SP FORECAST: 5 Blue Collar Lad, 6 Kodi Red, 7 Shark Two One, Sub Thirteen, 10 Carlton And Co, The Cola Kid, Yellow Pages, Rusheen Boy, Special Mayson, 12 Others.

8.30 INSPIRATIONS CLASSIFIED STAKES £3,140 (6) 7f (10)

1 (6) 551 **VOLTAIC (8) (D)** A Carroll 8 9 11 .... **Molly Gunn(7)**
2 (1) 412 **KONDRATIEV WAVE (8) (D)** A Carroll 7 9 10 ..... **W Carson**
3 (8) 522 **CUBANISTA (18) (D)** Olly Williams 5 9 9 .... **D Fentiman**
4 (5) 300- **GONZAGA (262)** J Bennett 9 9 9 .... **Laura Coughlan(3)**
5 (3) 252 **KODEBREAKER (19) (D)** M Herrington 5 9 9 ..... **Dylan Hogan**
6 (9) 85L ● **MY BOY JACK (86)** K Frost 5 9 9 .... **Joanna Mason**
7 (7) 568 **PRINCESS NAOMI (41) (D)** B Millman 4 9 9 .... **R Coakley**
8 (10) 2-93 **REVE DE MAGRITTE (152)** E De Giles 5 9 9 ...... **D Muscutt**
9 (2) 973 **SEA THE BUCKTHORN (23) (D)** M Usher 4 9 9 ... **T Heard(3)**
10 (4) 7LL **TWILIGHT JAZZ (47) (C&D)** P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4 9 9 **Billy Loughnane**

VISOR: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 10 HOOD: No. 9.
W-Factor: Kondratiev Wave (62); Reve De Magritte (61); My Boy Jack (60).
SP FORECAST: 3 Voltaic, 7-2 Kondratiev Wave, 5 Cubanista, Kodebreaker, 10 My Boy Jack, Sea The Buckthorn, Reve De Magritte, 14 Princess Naomi, 33 Others.

9.00 TWIN FIN RUM HANDICAP 3YO £3,664 (5) 7f (10)

1 (4) 27-5 **SWORDPLAY (34)** C Johnston 9 11 .... **Archie Young(7)**
2 (6) 498 **BELLA BISBEE (18)** E Dunlop 9 10 .... **Billy Loughnane**
3 (8) 238 **MOON MAN (34)** D O'Meara 9 9 .... **Joanna Mason**
4 (3) 78-3 **HURRICANE POWER (8) (F)** P & O Cole 9 9 .... **K Stott**
5 (1) 307 **INDIVAR (21)** D O'Meara 9 8 .... **D Nolan**
6 (2) 3-82 ● **WONDER SMILE (21)** H Palmer 9 7 .... **R Coakley**
7 (5) 646 **ENPASSANT (21)** J Fanshawe 9 7 .... **D Muscutt**
8 (10) 674 **NOVATION (17)** G Kelleway 9 6 .... **Liam Wright(5)**
9 (9) 3-61 **PERIANTH (18) (C)** Mrs P Sly 9 2 .... **S W Kelly**
10 (7) 7-L1 **INDICATION COURT (18) (C&D)** D Faulkner 8 11 .... **Laura Pearson**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 10.
W-Factor: Perianth (82); Wonder Smile (81); Indivar (80).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Perianth, 9-2 Indication Court, 5 Wonder Smile, 6 Hurricane Power, 7 Enpassant, 10 Moon Man, 12 Swordplay, Indivar, 16 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** Kevin Stott 20% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** A Carroll 11% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.17 Metro Dubai (visor), 6.18 Tiger Beetle (blinkers), Favorite Boy (blinkers), 7.25 Winged Messenger (hood), 9.00 Hurricane Power (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 6.18 Flight Of Angels(hcp), Olympicus(hcp). 6.53 Dee's Dream(hcp). 8.00 Carlton And Co(hcp), Shark Two One(hcp), Special Mayson(hcp). 8.30 Kondratiev Wave. **DRAW:** Low numbers best on the straight course. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Princess Naomi** (8.30) 181 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 9.00 **Indication Court** from Craig Lidster to D Faulkner.

AFTERNOON RESULTS

CHESTER: Good

1.40—OUTRUN THE STORM (Mr E Cagney, 9-4 fav) 1; On A Session (9-2) 2; Red Mirage (10-3 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. hd, 1l. (R Fahey). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.10, £1.80, £1.20. exacta: £12.90. tricast: £29.65. trifecta: £32.10. CSF: £11.39. Non-runners: Bass Player, Ernie's Valentine.

2.15—OLD CHUMS (P-L Jamin, 9-2) 1; Infinity Blue (22-1) 2; Onigiri (14-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 1½l, 2¼l. (T Dascombe; 2-1 fav Quiet Resolve). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.60, £6.20, £3.60. exacta: £108.10. tricast: £1318.57. trifecta: £1306.90. CSF: £107.34.

2.50—MANILA THRILLER (C Beasley, 13-2 co 2nd fav) 1; Oasis Sunrise (13-2 co 2nd fav) 2; Dukes Of Haather (evens fav) 3. 12 ran. ns, 1¼l. (J Channon). Tote: £9.40; pl £2.30, £1.80, £1.10. exacta: £59.70. trifecta: £145.90. CSF: £45.90.

3.25—REBAATT (C Fallon, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Double Jump (18-1) 2; Volto Di Medusa (18-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 6½l, ¾l. (W Haggas; 13-8 fav Hutchence). Tote: £4.34; pl £3.90, £1.30, £4.90. exacta: £50.50. tricast: £942.84. trifecta: £697.70. CSF: £58.97. Non-runners: Caelan, Tatateo.

4.00—BERKSHIRE PHANTOM (A Mullen, 16-1) 1; Khathak (8-1) 2; Indie Skies (5-2 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. nk, nk. (Fionn McSharry). Tote: £18.50; pl £4.90, £2.10, £1.50. exacta: £147.50. tricast: £440.81. trifecta: £1134.80. CSF: £136.12.

4.35—TOUCHWOOD (JP Sullivan, 9-1) 1; My Honey B (8-1) 2; Once Adaay (7-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, 2l. (R Carr; 3-1 fav Star Shield). Tote: £11.00; pl £3.00, £2.50, £2.20. exacta: £84.50. tricast: £536.61. trifecta: £639.00. CSF: £78.62. Non-runner: Lockdown Lass.

5.10—NATIVE KING (P Mulrennan, 17-2) 1; Juantorena (10-1) 2; Bulmer Bank (9-2 co fav) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¼l, ½l. (H Palmer; 9-2 cofav Treasure Time, 9-2 cofav Colorada Dancer). Tote: £9.50; pl £2.80, £3.10, £1.70. exacta: £106.40. tricast: £437.90. trifecta: £426.90. CSF: £92.51. Non-runners: Asteverdi, Shemozzle.

Placepot: £396.80
(Race 1) 8, 4, 1; (2) 5, 8, 6; (3) 9, 10, 3; (4) 3, 5, 9; (5) 3, 9, 10; (6) 3, 7, 5;
Quadpot: £46.90

SANDOWN: Round: good to firm-good in places; sprint: good-good to firm in places

1.30—SIEGEN (P Dobbs, 6-1) 1; Rajeteriat (7-4 fav) 2; Redorange (5-1 2nd fav) 3. 12 ran. 2l, nk. (R Hannon). Tote: £7.90; pl £2.00, £1.10, £2.10. exacta: £20.40. trifecta: £80.70. CSF: £16.79.

2.05—JENEVER (L Edmunds, 5-1 jt 2nd fav) 1; Brave Nation (11-2) 2; Lil Guff (4-1 fav) 3. H'cap 14 ran. 1l, ½l. (Jessica Macey). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.00, £2.30, £2.00. exacta: £37.20. tricast: £124.45. trifecta: £192.00. CSF: £31.69. Non-runners: Buraback, Secret Handsheikh.

2.40—DIVIDEND (Rossa Ryan, 50-1) 1; Moon Sniper (50-1) 2; Aegean Sea (11-1) 3. 12 ran. 2l, hd. (Dr R Newland & J Insole; 5-4 fav Royal Officer). Tote: £59.50; pl £7.80, £8.00, £2.50. exacta: £946.20. trifecta: £5978.10. CSF: £1498.08.

3.15—CHASING APHRODITE (T Marquand, 14-1) 1; Born Ruler (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Majestic (11-2) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. (Harry Eustace; 10-3 fav Gallant Lion). Tote: £15.90; pl £3.40, £1.80, £2.00. exacta: £79.20. tricast: £310.95. trifecta: £375.80. CSF: £62.75. Non-runner: Island Star.

3.50—TRAVOLTA (D Muscutt, 17-2) 1; Devoirs Choice (9-2) 2; Crimson Road (5-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 3¼l, 1¼l. (J Ferguson; 3-1 fav Games People Play). Tote: £9.50; pl £1.90, £2.20, £1.80. exacta: £51.20. tricast: £213.55. trifecta: £223.10. CSF: £45.05. Non-runner: Ravenswell.

4.25—SUNFALL (T Marquand, 11-4 fav) 1; King Of Charm (33-1) 2; Northfield Lake (8-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2½l, 1l. (W Haggas). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.40, £7.50, £2.70. exacta: £80.30. tricast: £669.99. trifecta: £637.20. CSF: £102.16. Non-runners: Divine Breath, Graecia, Zipster.

5.00—COCK AND BULL (W Buick, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Night Horn (6-1) 2; Allonsy (11-8 fav) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1l, ns. (M Bell). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £2.80. exacta: £11.60. trifecta: £31.90. CSF: £16.70. Non-runner: College Choir.

Placepot: £1,600.10
(Race 1) 10, 8, 9; (2) 8, 7, 5; (3) 6, 9, 1; (4) 1, 9, 2; (5) 2, 8, 1; (6) 3, 7, 11;
Quadpot: £358.00

YORK: Good to soft-good in places

1.50—TOLSTOY (Shay Farmer, 18-1) 1; Feel The Need (5-1 fav) 2; Yaaser (40-1) 3; Justcallmepete (11-1) 4. H'cap 16 ran. 2l, 2l, 1½l. (B Ellison). Tote: £20.30; pl £4.40, £2.00, £7.90, £2.60. exacta: £153.30. tricast: £3769.32. trifecta: £6555.70. CSF: £103.05.

2.25—INCONSPICUOUS (H Russell, 14-1) 1; Isla Bella (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Mrbluesky (5-1) 3. 14 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. (O Pears; 3-1 fav I Love Dad). Tote: £16.40; pl £4.60, £1.90, £1.70. exacta: £99.60. trifecta: £524.70. CSF: £66.74. Non-runner: Clay Shoveler.

3.00—ALFA KELLENIC (W Pyle, 9-4 fav) 1; Flaccianello (12-1) 2; Queen Of Mougins (13-2) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 2¼l, shd. (Craig Lidster). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.50, £3.60, £2.30. exacta: £35.40. tricast: £159.24. trifecta: £216.20. CSF: £30.72. Non-runners: Al Simmo, Jumbeau.

3.35—HAVANA GILA (H Turner, 16-1) 1; River Seine (6-4 fav) 2; Raison D'etre (14-1) 3. 7 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £17.00; pl £4.50, £1.40. exacta: £49.70. trifecta: £293.60. CSF: £38.62.

4.10—RON O (J Hart, 28-1) 1; Have Secret (9-1) 2; Reach (5-1 2nd fav) 3; Godwinson (10-3 fav) 4. H'cap 17 ran. 2l, ¾l, 1¾l. (R Craggs). Tote: £39.30; pl £6.10, £2.60, £1.60, £1.80. exacta: £457.50. tricast: £1499.16. trifecta: £2246.20. CSF: £247.28.

4.45—INVISIBLE FRIEND (R Scott, 18-1) 1; Pol Roger (12-1) 2; Shifter (11-1) 3; Life On The Rocks (6-1) 4. H'cap 16 ran. 2l, ½l, ½l. (K Ryan; 13-8 fav Arctic Mountain). Tote: £19.00; pl £2.20, £2.90, £1.50, £3.30. exacta: £233.40. tricast: £2514.40. trifecta: £2739.50. CSF: £211.49.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £8,467.74 carried over.
Placepot: £164.70
(Race 1) 15, 10, 14, 8; (2) 7, 10, 8; (3) 13, 8, 7; (4) 5, 3; (5) 10, 11, 13, 8; (6) 11, 10, 13, 16.
Quadpot: £21.60

THE SCOUT'S SCOOP SIX HINTS

Leg 1 ARRANGE (No 3) (1.50 York)
Leg 2 CLASSIC (No 8) (2.05 Sandown)
Leg 3 QUINTUS ARRIUS (No 16) (2.25 York)
Leg 4 NO HALF MEASURES (No 6) (2.40 Sandown)
Leg 5 BLUE PRINCE (No 2) (3.20 Chester)
Leg 6 SERRIED RANKS (No 4) (3.35 York)

Wood an Aussie for just one day

COME ON: Wood backing Aussies to crush Scots

HE'S BANKING ON OLD FOE

MARK WOOD will grit his teeth and hope for an Australia win this weekend as resurgent England look to secure a place in the next round of the T20 World Cup.

The reigning champions took a big step towards the Super 8 stage against Oman, chasing down 48 in a tournament-record 19 deliveries – but their fate is not entirely in their own hands.

With net run-rate now favouring England, a positive result against Namibia today will take them to the cusp of qualification.

But Scotland can still edge them out if they spring a huge upset on Australia in the early hours of tomorrow morning UK time.

Josh Hazlewood stirred the pot by claiming his side would be open to manipulating the situation to oust England, but it is realistically unthinkable that they would compromise the result of a World Cup match.

Yet, with everything riding on the last group game, the Durham-born seamer is ready to change the habit of a lifetime and cheer on the men in green and gold.

"I know I'm close to the Scottish border and Australia and Scotland are England's rivals...but we'll obviously be supporting Australia because we're trying to get through," said Wood. "We have got to show a little bit more

From **Rory Dollard** in Antigua

and then fingers crossed for Australia. Then, when you are through to that next stage, every team can go on from there.

"I'm absolutely confident they'll play their hardest, that's the Australian way."

Responding to Hazlewood's earlier comments, which suggested manoeuvring England out would be in his side's "best interests", Wood was happy to take the compliment.

"I saw it more as a respect thing if I'm honest," he said. "He was saying England have done well against Australia in the recent past and he thinks we're a big threat. I had no problem with it. It's all part of England versus Australia."

Wood, meanwhile, confronted some of the pressure he had felt going into last game. After taking a wicket with no-ball in the wash-out against Scotland, he saw his first over against Australia blasted for 22, including three sixes in four balls by David Warner.

On the eve of Thursday's match he was seen having a long discussion with team psychologist David Young, hired on a short-term deal from Manchester City, and bounced back with 3-12.

He added: "I know I've come in for a lot of flak in the past few days but I was determined put on a performance. I realised there were doubts about my spot but, from the inside, I've been quietly keeping my focus on trying to perform."

Luck of the Irish runs out

IRELAND are out of the T20 World Cup after their match against USA in Florida was washed out.

There had been tropical storms and flooding in the morning, leaving USA qualified for the Super 8s stage. But it concludes a disappointing tournament for Ireland, who lost their two preceding group matches but have the chance of a consolation win against Pakistan tomorrow.

Irish cricket commentator Andrew Leonard said: "I imagine it is going to be the most forlorn Irish dressing room – this is not indicative of where Irish cricket is at by any stretch of the imagination."

Co-hosts USA join India in the next round, with Canada and Pakistan also bowing out.

WORLD OF SPORT

BOXING

CHRIS Billam-Smith has been helped by his idol George Groves ahead his WBO cruiserweight title defence against Richard Riakporhe at Selhurst Park tonight.

"He's been great to have around and is so knowledgeable," he said. "I see him a couple of times a week. He joins in on my strength sessions."

CHRIS McKENNA

RUGBY LEAGUE

RYAN HALL broke Danny McGuire's all-time Super League try-scoring record as Hull KR trounced Huddersfield 32-6.

Rovers' veteran Hall scored his 247th competition try in the 72nd minute to level with his former Leeds team-mate. And then the prolific winger charged in five minutes later to claim another.

HIKU

Peta Hiku also scored two against the outgunned Giants, who had Andre Savelio sent off.

DAVE CRAVEN

CYCLING

THE RideLondon Classique will not take place in 2025 after the world governing body's calendar left London unable to stage the UCI Women's WorldTour race on the appointed dates.

Organisers were notified in March of the race move from the last full weekend in May to a slot from May 30 to June 1.

Wilko's call to fire Down Under

From **Adam Hathaway** in Tokyo

JONNY WILKINSON has urged England to fill the shirt and end a 21-year drought Down Under in New Zealand this summer.

Steve Borthwick, right, and his men are in Japan for a Test in Tokyo a week today before heading south for a double header against the All Blacks.

England would not have had a prayer against the Kiwis based on their form early in the Six Nations, when they limped to wins over Italy and Wales before losing to Scotland in Edinburgh.

But they sparked into life with a stunning victory over Ireland and a last-gasp defeat by France in Lyon, which allowed them to head for the tour with renewed confidence.

Wilkinson said England looked empty in those first three games before building into the shirt in the last two rounds, and he has challenged them to keep growing.

The World Cup-winning fly-half, speaking at the launch of the Global Rugby Players' Foundation, said: "Now they are playing heavy you can't move them, everything they do has impact and that is a mark of being together, a game plan and each of them finding a way to get their strong points into the game.

"They are excited and suddenly that excitement has gone from trying to meet expectations and get things right to, 'I want to get out there'. That is what happened in those two games when they were not given much chance. That filled them up even more, now they are going to the ultimate challenge to find out if they can carry on that momentum. Why not? That hollowness comes from when you are trying to think your way through the game and thinking about what to do right.

"They are getting it and they are starting to connect."

Two England teams have combined to win just two Tests in New Zealand in 15 attempts. John Pullin's 1973 vintage triumphed 16-10 in Auckland and Martin Johnson's crew, with Wilkinson providing all the points, sent shock waves through rugby ahead of the 2003 World Cup by winning 15-13 in Wellington.

The New Zealand media labelled Johnson, Lawrence Dallaglio, Steve Thompson and company "white orcs on steroids".

Wilkinson has warned the squad not to get in a row with Kiwi fans because they are obsessed with rugby – and know their stuff.

He added: "You don't want to get into an argument because they are so intelligent about their rugby.

"A random supporter might come up and you end up getting beaten by them in an argument – even the public know their stuff. It is the real deal."

JONNY BE GOOD Wilkinson says England must build on their new confidence Down Under

SPORT IN BRIEF

CRICKET

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP - GROUP A—United States vs Ireland. (Lauderhill): Match abandoned without a ball bowled (1pt each).

GROUP C—Afghanistan v Papua New Guinea (Brian Lara Cricket Academy): Papua New Guinea 95-10 (19.5 overs; F Farooqi 3-16); Afghanistan 101-3 (15.1 overs). *Afghanistan (2pts) win by 7 wickets.*

T20 BLAST - NORTH GROUP—Derbyshire v Northamptonshire (Derby): Northamptonshire 193-8 (20.0 overs). Derbyshire 122-3 (8.0 overs).

Leicestershire v Lancashire (Grace Road): Lancashire 162 (18.5 overs). Leicestershire 137-9 (20.0 overs). *Lancashire (2pts) beat Leicestershire by 25 runs.*

Warwickshire v Yorkshire (Edgbaston): Yorkshire 145 (19.5 overs). Warwickshire 151-6 (18.1 overs). *Warwickshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire by 4 wickets.*

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire (New Road): Worcestershire 141-6 (20.0 overs). Nottinghamshire 100-3 (15.0 overs). *Nottinghamshire (2pts) beat Worcestershire by one run (D/L Method).*

SOUTH GROUP—Essex v Sussex (Chelmsford): Essex 178-9 (20.0 overs). Sussex 181-2 (15.4 overs). *Sussex (2pts) beat Essex by 8 wickets.*

Hampshire v Middlesex (The Rose Bowl): Middlesex 113-8 (16.5 overs). Hampshire. *No result. Hampshire (1pts) Middlesex (1pts).*

Somerset v Kent (Taunton): Somerset 55-6 (5.0 overs). Kent.

Surrey v Gloucestershire (The Oval): Gloucestershire 170-6 (20.0 overs). Surrey 170-9 (20.0 overs; J J Roy 55). *Surrey (1pts) tied with Gloucestershire (1pts).*

GOLF

THE 124TH U.S. OPEN (Pinehurst Resort & Country Club (Course No.2), Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina)**—2nd rd:**(USA unless stated, Par 70): **136** B DeChambeau 67 69, T Detry (Bel) 69 67, **137** R McIlroy (NIrl) 65 72, **138** H Matsuyama (Jpn) 72 66, **139** A Bhatia 68 71, T Hatton (Eng) 68 71, Joo-Hyung Kim (Kor) 71 68, X Schauffele 70 69, **140** B Horschel 73 67, **141** F Capan 71 70, T Pendrith (Can) 71 70, **142** B Harman 71 71, C Kirk 71 71, D McCarthy 75 67, A Scott (Aus) 70 72, S Straka (Aut) 70 72, J Suber 69 73, **143** C Bezuidenhout (Rsa) 72 71.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League

CASTLEFORD	8	WIGAN	10
HULL K R	32	HUDDERSFIELD	6
WARRINGTON	14	SALFORD	25

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	13	11	0	2	367	164	22
St Helens	13	10	0	3	353	136	20
Hull K R	14	10	0	4	370	189	20
Warrington	14	9	0	5	334	195	18
Salford	14	9	0	5	275	270	18
Catalans	13	8	0	5	264	192	16
Leeds	13	7	0	6	246	242	14
Huddersfield	14	6	0	8	280	295	12
Leigh	12	4	1	7	244	206	9
Castleford	14	3	1	10	226	416	7
Hull	13	1	0	12	162	440	2
London	13	1	0	12	134	510	2

TODAY'S DIARY

European Championships Group A

Hungary v Switzerland (2pm) (Live on ITV 1)

European Championships Group B

Italy v Albania (8pm) (Live on BBC 1)

Spain v Croatia (5pm) (Live on ITV 1)

CRICKET

ICC World Twenty20 - Group A: Canada v India (Lauderhill, 3.30pm). **Group B:** Namibia v England (North Sound, 6pm).
t20 Blast - North Group: Nottinghamshire v Durham (Trent Bridge, 2.30pm). **South Group:** Sussex v Surrey (Hove, 7pm).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League: Leeds Rhinos v Hull FC (3.00), Catalans Dragons v Leigh Leopards (5.30).

TOMORROW'S DIARY

European Championships Group C

Serbia v England (8pm) (Live on BBC 1)

Slovenia v Denmark (5pm) (Live on ITV 1)

Group D

Poland v Netherlands (2pm) (Live on BBC 1)

CRICKET

ICC World Twenty20 - Group A: Ireland v Pakistan (Lauderhill, 3.30pm). **Group B:** Australia v Scotland (Gros Islet, 1.30am).
t20 Blast - North Group: Yorkshire v Leicestershire (Headingley, 3pm). Derbyshire v Warwickshire (Derby, 4pm). Durham v Lancashire (Riverside, 2.30pm). Worcestershire v Northamptonshire (New Road, 2.30pm). **South Group:** Kent v Gloucestershire (Canterbury, 3.30pm). Somerset v Glamorgan (Taunton, 3pm).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League London Broncos v St Helens (3.00).

Not so sweet Carolina as McIlroy goes into reverse on testing Major mission

A MOOD SWING McIlroy was unable to repeat his bogey-free first round as he toiled to a two-over 72

From **Andrew Gamble** at Pinehurst

RORY DROPS BACK WHILE SCHEFFLER'S IN TROUBLE

RORY McILROY says nobody will run away with the title a la Martin Kaymer after the four-time Major champion faltered in the second round of the US Open.

Having posted his first bogey-free opening round at a Major since his 2014 Open win at Royal Liverpool, McIlroy suffered a rude awakening in the blistering North Carolina heat en route to a two-over 72.

In 2014, the last time the event was held at Pinehurst No.2, Kaymer surged to an eight-shot win.

But McIlroy, who is three-under overall, does not see history repeating itself. He said: "I was two over pretty early. My goal going into that second nine was if I could get it back to even for the day I'd have been pretty happy.

"With the way the course is and the way some of those hole locations are, I don't see anyone running away with it today, building up too much of a lead.

"That's certainly what Martin did a few years ago here."

McIlroy had hoped to take advantage of what he perceived to be preferable conditions and fresh greens in the company of world No.1 Scottie Scheffler and US PGA champion Xander Schauffele. But, starting at the 10th, he bogeyed the 11th and 15th.

He chipped in to secure a par before the turn and then birdied the third.

However, after another dropped shot at the last he lamented the notoriously difficult greens.

McIlroy said: "You need to have a lot of precision. I feel for the most part I've done that well this week.

"I've got the ball pin-high quite a lot, which is really important. Because most of us are playing conservative off the tee with irons, you can aim down one side of the fairway to try to give yourself better angles to these pins."

Scheffler was in grave danger of missing the cut for the first time in two years after a poor 74 left him on five over.

Tyrrell Hatton, known for his fiery nature, believes the testing conditions could work in his favour.

After a 71 gave him a one-under halfway total, the Briton said: "Maybe everyone else getting a bit more frustrated is better suited for someone like me, who is just constantly frustrated."

Bryson DeChambeau, who won the US Open in 2020, mixed five birdies with four bogeys in his 69 to set the early pace on four under.

United splash the cash after Ronaldo's tip

By **Jeremy Cross**

MANCHESTER UNITED have finally heeded Cristiano Ronaldo's advice and decided to spend £50million on the club's training complex.

Work on the project will start next week and see all areas of the building refurbished to create a "world-class" facility.

United have employed the same architects who were responsible for redesigning Wembley Stadium.

The English giants say Foster & Partners will "focus on creating a high-performance collaborative environment for their players and staff".

Before being sacked by United in 2022, United legend Ronaldo insisted the club's training complex needed upgrading. "Since Sir Alex Ferguson left, I saw no evolution in the club," he said.

Co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe said: "We want to create a world-class environment for our teams to win."

ADAM BACK AT SAINTS

ADAM LALLANA has returned to Southampton on a one-year deal following the club's promotion to the Premier League.

Lallana, who played 265 times for Saints between 2006 and 2014, arrives after his contract at Brighton expired.

The 36-year-old former England international captained the club before joining Liverpool in 2014.

Lallana said: "Although it sounds like a bit of a fairy tale, there's still a job to do and I'm really confident I've still got a lot to give to this club.

"When I started speaking to Russell [Martin, Saints manager], it was something I knew straightaway felt right."

FOOTBALL LATEST

● CRYSTAL PALACE have signed Morocco centre-back Chadi Riad from La Liga side Real Betis on a five-year contract, subject to international clearance. Riad, 20, said: "They have been telling me how they played this year and I think it complements perfectly the way I play."

● **BURNLEY goalkeeper James Trafford is closing in on a move to Newcastle. The Toon are understood to have agreed a £15million fee, which could rise to £20m, for the England Under-21 international.**

● EVERTON captain Seamus Coleman has signed a one-year contract extension to take his stay at Goodison Park into a 16th full season. The Republic of Ireland defender, 35, said: "I give my all for the club and I'm really happy to extend my time here. I'm going to cherish and enjoy every moment."

Ace Draper eyeing top-10 spot

TENNIS

By **Neil Squires**

JACK DRAPER believes a new bully-boy attitude has set him up for a crack at the world's top 10.

Draper, 22, below, who will replace Cam Norrie as British No.1 next week, hit 31 aces on his way to a 5-7 6-4 7-6 Stuttgart Open quarter-final win over Frances Tiafoe.

If the world No.40 can land his first ATP title, he will make the top 30 for the first time. Draper said: "The serve's a big factor in all of this. I'm trying to come forward more and trying to play like a 6ft 4in player.

"If I want to be a top-10 player I'm aware people like Carlos Alcaraz take it to another gear.

"They're not going to beat themselves. You have to have the game to beat them. Hopefully that more aggressive style is showing." Katie Boulter is predicting "a fight" if she ends up meeting Emma Raducanu in a best-of-British semi-final showdown at the Nottingham Open.

Title-holder Boulter went through by beating Poland's Magdalena Frech 6-2 6-4.

Raducanu will join her if she wins her match against Fran Jones this morning.

"With Emma we know what she is capable of," said Boulter. "No matter what it's going to be a battle, a fight.

"It is going to be a scrap but that's the fun of it."

10 to tackle

1. Who scored a hat-trick for Northampton Saints in their 90-0 Gallagher Premiership home whitewash of Gloucester this season?
2. **Which club lost both the National League play-off final and FA Trophy final on penalties at Wembley within the space of a week last month?**
3. Who made 108 for Warwickshire in the first innings of the 2024 County Championship match with Surrey at the Kia Oval?
4. **Which golfer became the oldest BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1957 at the age of 44?**
5. In which European country did the equestrian events take place when the Olympic Games were staged in Melbourne in 1956?
6. **What height, in feet and inches, is shared by tennis champions Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal?**
7. With which sport is Leander Club associated?
8. **Which British skeleton slider won Team GB's only gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics?**
9. How many events are there in a heptathlon competition?
10. **Which young boxer took Andreas Kotelnik's WBA light welterweight title in 2009, besting the Ukrainian in a unanimous verdict?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Ollie Sleightholme. 2 Solihull Moors. 3 Ed Barnard. 4 Dai Rees. 5 Sweden. 6 6ft 1in. 7 Rowing. 8 Amy Williams. 9 Seven. 10 Amir Khan.

FIVE-STAR HOSTS TOO HOT FOR SCOTS

Tartan bubble bursts with drubbing on opening night

IT'S THE WIRTZ Wirtz, left, celebrates his opening goal with Kimmich to set Germany on their way

GERMANY v SCOTLAND		
68	POSSESSION %	32
11	SHOTS ON TARGET	0
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	0
3	BLOCKED SHOTS	1
5	CORNERS	0
15	FOULS	9
2	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	1

GERMANY	5
SCOTLAND	1

From **Andy Dunn** in Munich

WHEN Jamal Musiala's rocket effectively settled this contest inside 20 minutes, the entire roster of German substitutes stood in an orderly line and applauded.

No wonder. It was a magnificent strike.

But it was not just Musiala's goal – Germany's second – that deserved acclaim, it was the entire performance.

Yes, Scotland were hugely disappointing – almost embarrassing, to be honest – but this was a big statement from the hosts.

Being tournament-savvy, it was almost as though they played within themselves as soon as they had secured a two-goal advantage.

Sure, they inflicted plenty of added misery on Steve Clarke's side but there is a lot more to come from this Germany team.

The atmosphere inside the Allianz Arena was spine-tingling but while there were some truly fired-up people in the stands, none were a match for Scotland captain Andy Robertson.

But from referee Clement Turpin's first whistle, there was an eye-catching composure about Julian Nagelsmann's men and the neatness of passing paid dividends after 10 minutes.

It was a simple but sweet move and goalkeeper Angus Gunn might have done a lot better when trying to push away Florian Wirtz's strike but the surgical assist from Joshua Kimmich was typical of the hosts' work on opening night. Gunn barely saw the second as Musiala's strike fizzed past him, following a lovely feint and finish from the talent that played twice for England Under-21s.

There is no doubt Musiala was one that got away for England.

Just to make life even more difficult, an utterly reckless challenge from Ryan Porteous, below, on Ilkay Gundogan just before the break not only left Scotland with 10 men but also three down after Havertz had converted the resulting penalty.

To Scotland's credit, they defended vigorously in the second half, conceding only a fearsome Niclas Fullkrug strike and a late Emre Can hit after collecting a consolation courtesy of an Antonio Rudiger own-goal.

It was a night to forget for the Scots – but a night when we all remembered how good the Germans can be.

GERMANY (4-2-3-1): Neuer 6; Kimmich 7, Rudiger 7, Tah 7, Mittelstadt 7; Andrich 7 (Gross 46, 6), Kroos 8 (Can 80); Musiala 9 (Muller 74), Gundogan 8, Wirtz 8 (Sane 63, 6); Havertz 8 (Fullkrug 63, 8). **Goals:** Wirtz 10, Musiala 19, Havertz 45 pen, Fullkrug 68, Can 90.

SCOTLAND (3-4-2-1): Gunn 5; Porteous 2, Hendry 5, Tierney 6 (McKenna 77); Ralston 5, McTominay 6, McGregor 5 (Gilmour 67, 5), Robertson 5; Christie 5 (Shankland 82), McGinn 5 (McLean 67, 6); Adams 6 (Hanley 46, 6). **Goal:** Rudiger 87 og. **Sent off:** Porteous.

GUNNED DOWN... Scotland goalkeeper Gunn can only watch as Musiala makes it 2-0 to Germany

Title's no flight of fancy for Pickford

JORDAN READY TO MAKE DART AT ULTIMATE PRIZE

From **Simon Mullock** in Erfurt

DO NOT doubt that Jordan Pickford is in Germany to win.

The England goalkeeper was not too happy about losing a friendly game of darts to a radio reporter, before sitting down to talk about his chances of hitting the bullseye at Euro 2024.

The defeat was still bothering him half an hour later.

Pickford has played behind England teams that have lost a final, semi-final and quarter-final in the seven years since he became the No.1 but he wants to change that record.

"I've got 61 caps," he said. "I work hard off the pitch, I do everything to my best ability – I always want to improve.

"That's why this is my fourth major tournament, it's why I've won Everton's player of the year three years in a row.

"I know what I'm doing. I keep getting better – and hopefully this tournament is a success. We've come here to win but we can't look beyond the opening game. It's so important to get off to a good start."

Doubts have been raised over whether England have the defensive fortitude to become European champions.

Harry Maguire is missing and left-back Luke Shaw is not fit to face Serbia tomorrow.

John Stones has also had injury and illness concerns but he is likely to partner Marc Guehi, while Kieran Trippier is set to feature at left-back.

Pickford, 30, said: "I don't think it affects us. I've played with a lot of the lads over the last 18 months and everyone in the squad is there for what they've done for their club.

> ‘We have come to Germany to win it’

"There are a lot of new lads but they've been to major tournaments at younger levels.

"The senior lads can help the young lads if need be – but they're top players and they don't really need much help."

Pickford's only winner's medal is from the 2016 Toulon Tournament, when Gareth Southgate was in charge of the Under-21 team.

But he believes the experience he has from fighting relegation battles with Everton in recent years is just as valuable as the success stories he hears from team-mates who ply their trade at Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Manchester City.

Pickford said: "You've got lads here like Jude Bellingham, who has just won the Champions League.

"Stonesy, he won the Treble. Harry Kane scores goals for fun and Declan Rice had a fantastic season at Arsenal.

"I've had positives and negatives at Everton – and staying up was a big relief. But you also learn from the experiences of fighting for your lives in the Premier League.

"All of our experiences bed in together to be successful in a tournament.

"You'll have highs and lows throughout and that's where you've got to be mentally strong. That's why I'm here. My mentality, I think, is key.

"I still can't believe I lost the darts!"

TAKE AIM: Pickford's planning to hit the bullseye for England

SHOCK: Team-mates shield Eriksen as he is taken off the pitch

Eriksen set to cap one of the game's biggest comebacks

SLOVENIA V DENMARK
5PM TOM, ITV

WHAT is your favourite football comeback? Liverpool in Istanbul? Manchester United in Barcelona? That Sergio Aguero moment?

How about the one in which the footballer, who died for five minutes at a European Championship, returns to play in the same tournament three years later?

Christian Eriksen will step on to the field in Stuttgart tomorrow to do just that, as the Denmark midfielder completes surely football's most incredible comeback from June 12, 2021.

That was the day he collapsed after suffering a cardiac arrest in Copenhagen during the group stage opener against Finland.

From what had initially seemed an innocuous tumble, fears grew, and led to captain Simon Kjaer and goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel rushing to console Eriksen's distraught wife, Sabrina, who had run on to the pitch, with the Danish pair.

The rest of Eriksen's emotional team-mates formed a ring of steel around him as he received treatment.

Thanks to the miraculous work done by medics, the midfielder had regained consciousness by the time he was taken off the pitch. He could breathe again – and so could all of us.

"It was weird, because I didn't expect people to send flowers because I'd died for five minutes," was the midfielder's take on it six months after the incident.

The operation that required him to have an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) fitted forced him to leave Inter Milan, as the devices are banned in Serie A.

But after resuming his career at Brentford and Manchester United, Eriksen is back on the Euros stage in Stuttgart, not quite as the central creative figure for Denmark any more, but still an important member of a squad that benefits from his experience, in football and in life.

Perhaps partly inspired by Eriksen's trauma, the Danes rallied and reached the semi-finals of Euro 2020, where they were somewhat controversially beaten by England via an extra-time penalty.

They will have to go some to repeat that display but, in Schmeichel, Kjaer and Andreas Christensen they still have those brave, admirable leaders of three years ago.

They also boast the talent of Eriksen's United team-mate, Rasmus Hojlund, above, and midfielder Morten Hjulmand, who is starring for Sporting Lisbon in Portugal and no relation to manager Kasper.

Slovenia will be a test for the Danes, but one that they will expect to pass before their second group game against England.

Eriksen's presence will be a reminder that there is always a bigger picture – and that the heroes are not always the ones playing.

MARK JONES

Oliver and Co's big calls

By **Andy Dean**

WHILE Harry Kane and his team-mates must wait until tomorrow to start their Euro 2024 campaign, another group of Englishmen are in action today.

Michael Oliver will referee Spain's Group C clash with Croatia in Berlin, assisted by Stuart Burt and Dan Cook.

The job of keeping rival managers Luis de la Fuente and Zlatko Dalic in check will fall to fourth official Anthony Taylor, while Stuart Attwell is the Video Assistant Referee.

Oliver, right, who has been an international referee since 2012 and part of UEFA's Elite Group since 2018, is appearing at his second European Championship.

SOUTHGATE JOB SAFE

By **Jeremy Cross**

GARETH SOUTHGATE will not be sacked – even if England flop at Euro 2024.

It is understood the FA have no intention of firing Southgate, whatever happens in Germany.

The England manager has too much credit in the bank, having led his country to a World Cup semi-final in 2018 and the final of Euro 2020.

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham is desperate for Southgate, whose contract runs out in December, to sign a new deal.

But Southgate, 53, could walk away if England do not win the trophy in Germany.

Foden set to show skills to the world

From **John Cross**

PHIL FODEN can announce himself on the world stage by taking the European Championship by storm.

That is the view of England defender John Stones, who says his Manchester City team-mate has taken his game to new levels and can be on a par with Kylian Mbappe, below, and Jude Bellingham.

When asked whether he could be the player of the Euros, Stones said: "Yes. I'm biased but I think he's absolutely incredible.

"How he plays the game, it's so silky, playing like he's in the park.

"I feel like he has brought so much to his game. Goals, maturity, knowing situations, his pressing.

"This season has been incredible for him and I'm sure he will bring that to the tournament."

Foden has been sensational for City this term, winning a record fourth consecutive Premier League title.

However, for England there is a sense he has not quite reproduced his best, with the 24-year-old forward managing just four goals in 34 appearances.

But Stones added: "I feel Phil is someone who doesn't feel anything from the outside, he just plays the game so freely.

"I hope he comes and does what Phil can do for us, which I know he wants to.

"He is very proud of being here and representing his country.

"I think it probably suits Phil that maybe it's not all on him.

"We all know the quality that he's got.

"On these occasions is where it can bring the best out of you and maybe it's time to show the world what he can really do.

"I might be wrong but, in the Euros in 2021, I'm sure he got an injury to his foot, which kind of stopped him because he was playing incredible and training really well.

"Hopefully, he stays fit and healthy for everyone, especially Phil because I know he was frustrated at the last Euros."

ALIVE AND KICKING

Stones fit after worrying week

From **John Cross** in Blankenhain

AS WEEKS go, it has not been the ideal build-up to a big game.

John Stones feared he had broken his foot in England's final warm-up match last Friday and spent 36 hours in bed with a sickness bug earlier this week.

The Manchester City defender had an X-ray after injuring himself in a collision against Iceland at Wembley and then missed training on Wednesday due to illness.

But nothing was going to stop him playing for England at Euro 2024 and that determination and hunger to win pushed him through.

Stones said: "I was worried at first, how I landed on my foot. I knew it wasn't my knee or my ankle, because of the mechanism in how I landed, it was almost like my big toe in the line straight down my foot and you think 'I've fractured it'.

"I thought if I have fractured it, get the docs, tablets, injections, whatever it is, I don't want to miss out.

"With my history of injuries, knowing how to deal with them mentally is really beneficial. If it was bad, I was ready to go and gladly it wasn't. You think the worst at the start and we got some scans back and it was really minor stuff. I came through it, which is great.

"Then I haven't been that ill in… I couldn't tell you how long. I am not getting into detail. It was a real rough 36 hours.

"I ended up ringing the doc in the early hours of the morning after being up for a few hours and couldn't take it any more.

"It could have been a lot worse and I was glad to get through training on Thursday.

"Now I feel great physically. I am looking forward to it now."

Stones spoke with so much passion about playing for England, which was reinforced when he walked into his room at their luxury training resort to find a presentation box that was laid on for every player.

The box included pictures, handwritten notes and keepsakes to make them feel at home, and Stones revealed his partner put one in of him with his dad while at Barnsley as a kid.

"That goes back to making it all relatable and what you love," said the 30-year-old. "What you play football for and what you have always done.

"People will feel pressure in different ways. A strength of mine is not thinking too much about what is going on and what is expected."

Stones has enjoyed being the older head this week, with Marc Guehi, 23, expected to be his centre-back partner against Serbia tomorrow.

"I'm a big fan of Marc's," said Stones. "He's like a big sponge to learn and that's how you progress and improve as a player.

"His quality, for his size, how strong he is, how he dominates. He has been an incredible player at Palace."

Stones did not start a Premier League game for City after April 6, but said: "I believe I should be playing but that's out of my control and that really does have a negative effect on everything else.

"When called upon you won't be ready to play, you might make mistakes. I control the controllables."

MADE HIS MARC: Palace's Guehi has impressed Stones

STEP UP: Stones in training yesterday following recovery

FLOORED: Defender feared the worst after injury at Wembley

‘It could have been a lot worse but now I feel great physically’

SERBIA (3-4-2-1)	ENGLAND (4-2-3-1)
MANAGER: DRAGAN STOJKOVIC	MANAGER: GARETH SOUTHGATE
V M-SAVIC	PICKFORD
VELJKOVIC	WALKER
MILENKOVIC	STONES
PAVLOVIC	GUEHI
MAKSIMOVIC	TRIPPIER
ZIVKOVIC	ALEX-ARNOLD
LUKIC	RICE
S M-SAVIC	SAKA
KOSTIC	BELLINGHAM
TADIC	FODEN
MITROVIC	KANE

KICK-OFF: 8PM, BBC1
REFEREE: DANIELE ORSATO (ITA)

‘I’LL BANISH 2021 MEMORIES’

FROM BACK PAGE

that feeling within you. That’s something I’ve inherited over the years from winning a lot of trophies.

“All of us hope we can win but believing is a totally different thing.

“That’s a powerful thing from what I have been involved in. Little messages like that, believing we can go out and win.

“I always bring a positive mindset into what I’m going into. I don’t think it’s done too badly for me over the years.” Stones went through double heartbreak in 2021 when Gareth Southgate, right, and his England side lost the Euros final and City were also beaten by Chelsea at the same stage in the Champions League.

The 30-year-old centre-half added: “Thinking back to the Champions League final and then losing the Euros final, after that I said to myself, ‘I never want to feel like that again’.

“You shouldn’t fear it – embrace the feeling of something you’ve never done before. Grasp that emotion. I feel the same here. I will give everything.”

Trent favourite for midfield role in bold line-up

From **John Cross**

GARETH SOUTHGATE is set to be bold and use Trent Alexander-Arnold in his midfield masterplan for Euro 2024.

England manager Southgate has trialled Alexander-Arnold alongside Declan Rice and Jude Bellingham in training this week ahead of their Group C opener against Serbia tomorrow.

Liverpool full-back Alexander-Arnold, below, would be a gamble but Southgate is pinning his hopes on his quality on the ball, passing range and delivery from set pieces.

Southgate may use Bellingham in the midfield trio rather than as a No.10 to add stability and help Alexander-Arnold, who may lack some physicality and strength in the tackle against Serbia.

But it would be a brave move on Southgate’s part to get as many of his best players in the starting XI as possible.

Southgate has not told the players and has not made a final decision on who starts but his forward line may have a more familiar look.

Captain Harry Kane is England’s record scorer and will lead the line in Gelsenkirchen while Bukayo Saka and Phil Foden are favourites to start on the flanks in what could be an attacking line-up against the team ranked 33rd in the world.

While Serbia will pose an attacking threat with Aleksandar Mitrovic and Dusan Vlahovic, John Stones is fit to start and Marc Guehi is favourite to partner him in central defence.

But former England full-back Danny Rose believes Brighton’s Lewis Dunk should partner Stones.

Speaking on Reach’s new Euro Thrash podcast, which you can find on YouTube, Apple and Spotify from 9am today, Rose said: “The natural one would probably be Lewis Dunk.

“When you are talking about physicality in terms of size and build to [Harry] Maguire in the 2018 World Cup, set pieces were massive for England. Dunk fits that mould perfectly.”

England will train this morning at their base in Blankenhain before travelling to Gelsenkirchen.

Off night for sorry Scots

MATCH REPORT: PAGE 76

Rory: It'll be tight at top

US OPEN LATEST: PAGE 75

FLYING THE FLAG: Stones is drumming confidence into squad

FREE INSIDE EURO PULL-OUT

STONES OF DESTINY

We don't hope.. we believe, roars Lion

SERBIA V ENGLAND 8PM TOM

From **John Cross** in Blankenhain

JOHN STONES has told the nation to believe England can win the Euros.

The Three Lions defender says he has been drumming that total belief into every team-mate in order to spark a glorious summer.

England launch their campaign against Group C rivals Serbia tomorrow and Stones is determined to bring his winning mentality from Manchester City. He said: "I am a big believer in not hoping we can win but believing we can win – and having

TURN TO PAGE 79, COLUMN 1

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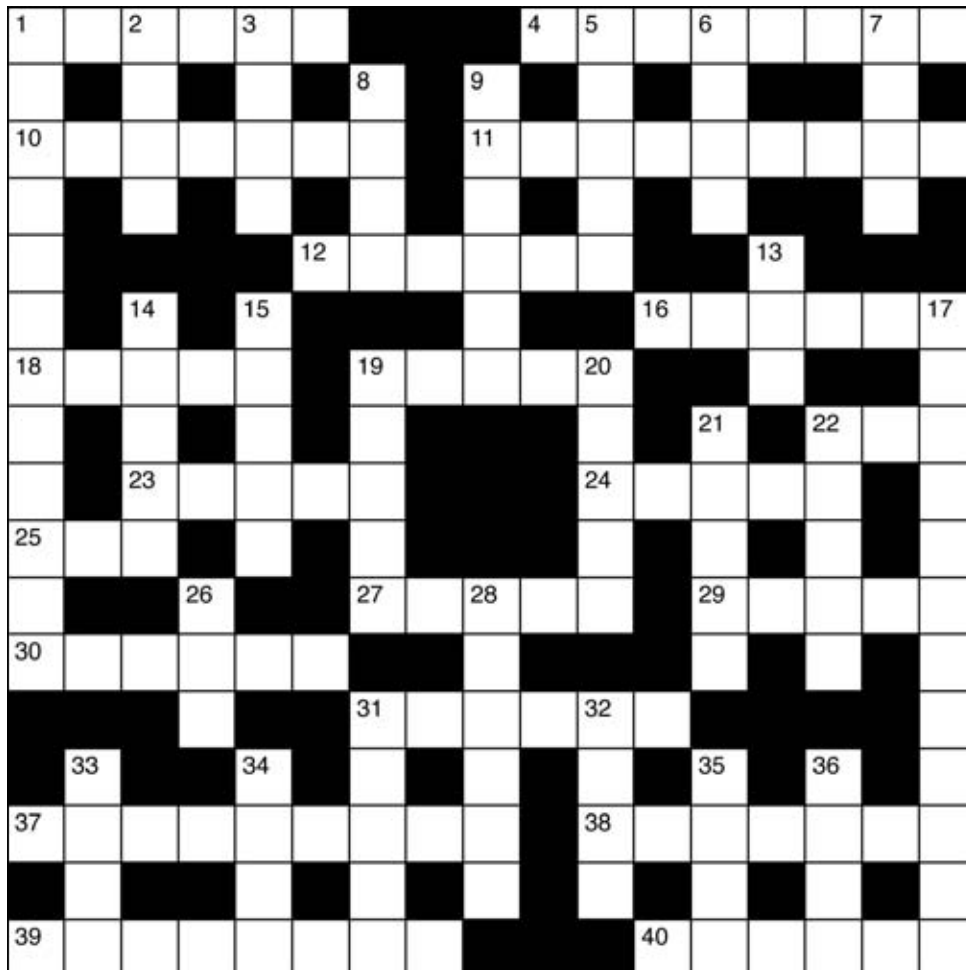
DAILY EXPRESS Puzzles EXTRA

Welcome to your brilliant Saturday Express eight-page puzzles pullout. We've got plenty here to keep you busy, from your favourite crosswords to brain-teasing sudokus and more. Enjoy!

ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS

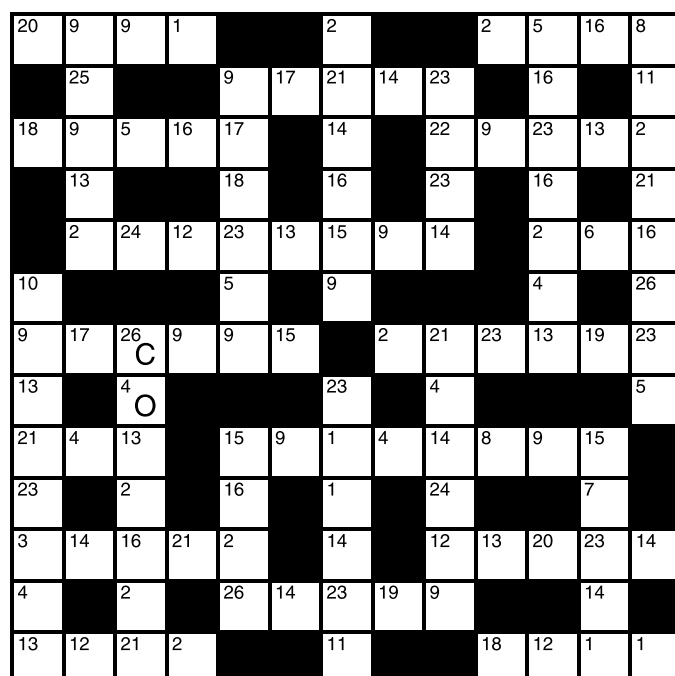
1 US actress who played Marissa Cooper in The OC, _ Barton (6)
4 Eragon and Echo Beach actor, Edward _ (8)
10 Director of Avatar and Titanic, James _ (7)
11 Tamzin _, actress who rose to fame as Mel in EastEnders (9)
12 _ Fletcher, appeared in Hotel Babylon with 11 Across (6)
16 Comedian and author, Dawn _ (6)
18 Christian Bale's co-star in The Machinist, Jennifer Jason _ (5)
19 The tallest Dragon in the Den, Peter _ (5)
22 Title awarded to the likes of Paul McCartney and Elton John (3)
23 Oliver's Army singer, born Declan MacManus, _ Costello (5)
24 Lisa _-Lee, one fifth of Steps (5)
25 _ Rankin, best-selling author who created Inspector Rebus (3)
27 and 40 Across English comedian who ran 43 marathons in 51 days (5,6)
29 Celebrity portrait photographer, _ Leibovitz (5)
30 The first name of the Earl Of Wessex (6)
31 _ Dion, the best-selling Canadian recording artist of all time (6)
37 _ Cilmi, Australian singer-songwriter (9)
38 _ Iglesias, son of fellow Spanish singer Julio (7)
39 _ Smith, rose to fame playing Janet in Two Pints of Lager... (8)
40 See 27 Across

DOWN

1 Legendary British actor who starred in The Italian Job and Alfie (7,5)
2 Life on Mars star, John _ (4)
3 Stand-up comedian who had a self-named BBC2 sitcom, Miranda _ (4)
5 Phoenix Nights creator, _ Kay (5)
6 Zane _, award-winning radio DJ (4)
7 American vocalist, _ Coolidge (4)
8 Love and Other Drugs, and One Day star, _ Hathaway (4)
9 Irish chat show host, Graham _ (6)
13 _ Fogle, presenter and adventurer (3)
14 Jeremy _ , played the lead in Smokin Aces (5)
15 US actor who appeared in several National Lampoon films, _ Chase (5)
17 Funny man who often works with Paul Whitehouse (5,7)
19 _ Metcalfe, played the title role in John Tucker Must Die (5)
20 Countdown's dictionary expert, _ Dent (5)
21 First name of World No 1 tennis professional, _ Djokovic (5)
22 Basic Instinct star, Sharon _ (5)
26 US rapper who is married to Beyonce, _ Z (3)
28 Bryce _ Howard, Terminator Salvation actress (6)
31 _ Black, veteran entertainer (5)
32 Original Deal or No Deal host, _ Edmonds (4)
33 Gogglebox narrator, Craig _ (4)
34 East is East actor, _ Mistry (4)
35 The name of David and Victoria Beckham's youngest son (4)
36 Danish group who had hits with Barbie Girl, Dr Jones and Turn Back Time (4)

CODEWORD

The number in each square corresponds to a letter. Work out the words in the grid using the letters provided. Fill in these known letters first, then use skill and judgement to work out the others.

1

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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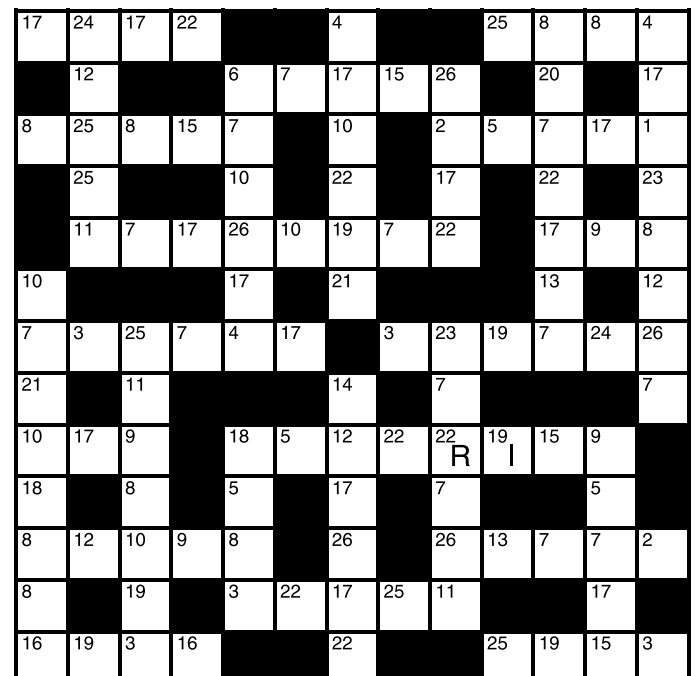

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

SAMURAI SUDOKU

Normal sudoku rules apply for all five 9x9 sudokus, but the 9x9 inner sudoku shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outside sudokus.

		1					2	8				2	9					7		
			4	2	8										4	8	2			
6		2					5						5					2		4
	2			1		5		3				1		2		6			5	
1	7			9			6						4			5			2	7
	4			6		7	9						8	7		4			6	
2		8			1					1					7			5		1
3		9			7					9					6			9		2
			9		6				7		5				3		5			
							2	4				5	8							
									1		6									
							1	7				9	6							
			3		6				6		9				1		5			
7		6			2					7					3			8		1
4		5			9					8					8			4		3
	4			2		6	9						7	9		3			4	
5	7			6			1						1			6			2	5
	9			7		5		2				6		3		5			9	
1		8					2						6					7		9
			2	9	5										6	9	3			
		4					7	5				9	3					5		

EASY SUDOKU 1

		9		7		5	1	
	3			8			6	
2		4	5		6			9
	1				5		2	
		7	3		8	4		
	8	5		2			9	
1	5		2		4			3
	9			5			4	
7		6		3		2		5

HARD SUDOKU 1

					7	2		
	6		4				8	
	2		6	8		1		
2	9							8
8								5
3							4	1
		9		6	5		1	
	4				1		9	
		5	9					

NUMBERFIT 1

Use logic to fit the listed numbers below into the corresponding grid.

2 digits: 39 90
3 digits: 191 195 205 251 338 481 555 717 778 814
5 digits: 41072 45561
6 digits: 100191 103981 652974 915304
7 digits: 2314419 8215018 8981958 9557192
9 digits: 191310120 805811095 915511702

NUMBERFIT 2

2 digits: 22 92
3 digits: 125 254 302 345 396 428 436 496 696 943
5 digits: 48934 65830
6 digits: 109922 225948 292928 334942
7 digits: 4213434 4231477 4882628 7506263
9 digits: 198439942 488496928 498485918

ALPHADOKU 1

A 9 x 9 sudoku with the letters R to Z.

	Z		V		T	S		
	X				S			Y
T	U							
		R						U
					Y			W
Y	T			V	W		X	
			Y	Z		U		
X							V	
					X			

EASY SUDOKU 2

		4	2		8	3		
	5			6			8	
3			5		1			9
7		8		5		6		1
	6		3		2		7	
4		2		8		5		3
5			7		6			2
	2			3			6	
		1	8		9	7		

HARD SUDOKU 2

7	5	9			1			
2				7				
6				2		8		
					2			1
	1	2				3	9	
9			4					
		5		6				2
				3				8
			1			6	3	4

ALPHADOKU 2

A 9 x 9 sudoku with the letters R to Z.

		T		R	X	W		
V			Z			X		
		W		V	U			T
	Z					U		
	V				R	Z	W	
							Y	
				Y	V		S	
	Y	R		W				Z
S					Z			

FUTOSHIKI 1

FUTOSHIKI 2

Insert the numbers one to five in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated. The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" (>) and "less than" (<) signs.

KILLER SUDOKU 1

KILLER SUDOKU 2

Each row and column hold the numbers 1 to 9 and the numbers in the cages must add to the given total. No number can be repeated in a cage.

KAKURO 1

KAKURO 2

Fill in each series of blank squares using the numbers 1 to 9. Each series – across and down – must add up to the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of the series. A number may be repeated in each line but not in a series.

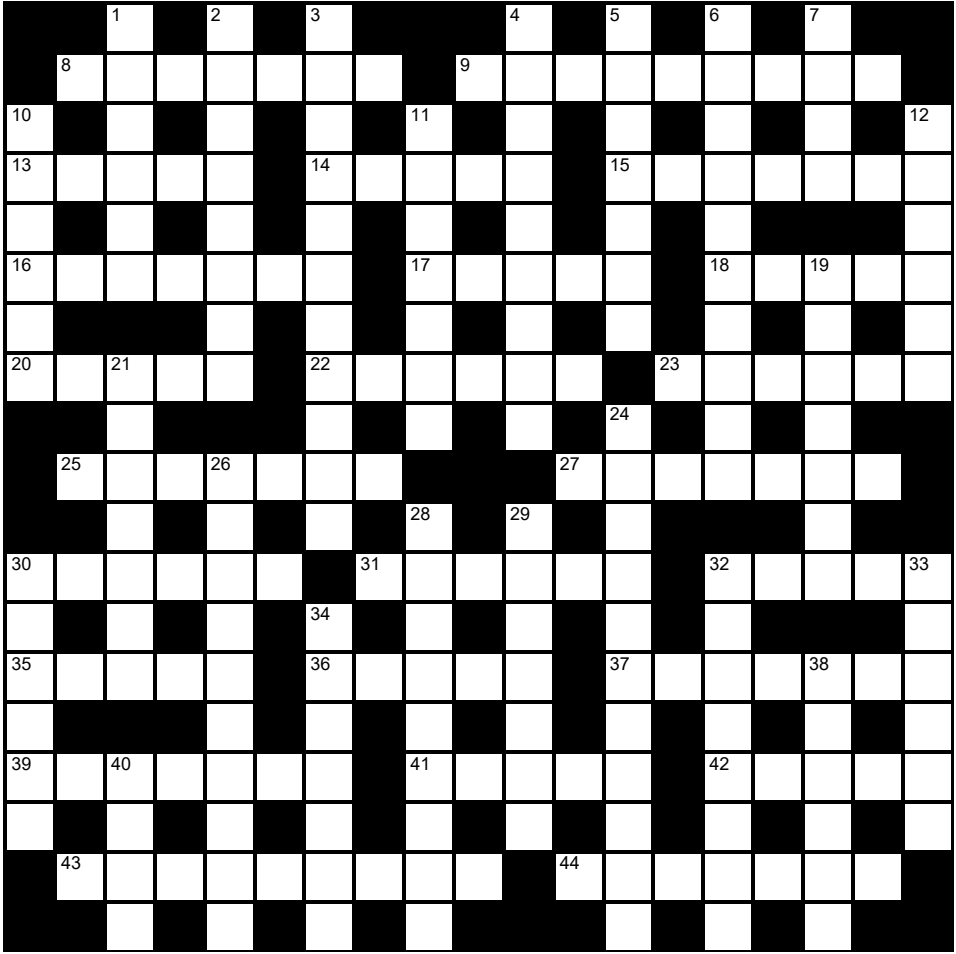
BIG CROSSWORD 1

ACROSS

9 Say sorry (9)
10 Global (9)
12 Possess (4)
13 Make a determined demand (6)
14 Religious traveller (7)
15 Exciting (9)
17 Deformed (9)
18 Groove (7)
19 Pulsates (6)
20 Operatic song (4)
23 Rule of conduct (9)
25 Soon (9)
26 Rational (4)
27 Mouthful of food (6)
29 Extra (7)
32 Sleepy (9)
34 Put into words (9)
35 Feels repentant (7)
36 Disc (6)
37 Burden (4)
38 Undergarment (9)
39 With great urgency (9)

DOWN

1 Evoking sympathy (8)
2 Talk (12)
3 Every two years (8)
4 Observing (6)
5 Patron (8)
6 Throwaway (10)
7 Rich (7)
8 Rudimentary (10)
11 Fragment (5)
16 Madness (6)
19 Foot digit (3)
21 Lack of mercy (12)
22 Proclamation (6)
23 Addition to a letter (10)
24 Occupation (10)
25 Friend (3)
28 Soak (8)
29 Restrain (8)
30 Avoid (8)
31 Involving dispute (7)
33 Power (5)
34 Flee (6)

BIG CROSSWORD 2

ACROSS

8 Six-sided shape (7)
9 Distasteful (9)
13 Body of water (5)
14 Soft juicy fruit (5)
15 Accommodation for animals (7)
16 Musician (7)
17 Gleam brightly (5)
18 Enthusiasm (5)
20 Disprove (5)
22 Scottish cloth (6)
23 Failed to hit (6)
25 Latest style (7)
27 Mass of rock (7)
30 In great numbers (6)
31 Upright post (6)
32 Regal (5)
35 Gangway (5)
36 Internal organ (5)
37 Make active (7)
39 Baked sweet (7)
41 Venomous snake (5)
42 Stanza (5)
43 Vulnerable (9)
44 Very large cushion (7)

DOWN

1 Protect from harm (6)
2 Armoured glove (8)
3 Urban municipal authority (11)
4 Of industrial arts (9)
5 Dichotomy (7)
6 Avoiding company (10)
7 S. American Indian (4)
10 Chest (6)
11 Pesters (7)
12 Acting technique (6)
19 Unexplained event (7)
21 Small hounds (7)
24 Dejected (11)
26 Dreadful (10)
28 Effervescent beverage (4,5)
29 Security (7)
30 Void of expression (6)
32 Pertinent (8)
33 Cavalryman (6)
34 Intestinal infection (7)
38 Using words (6)
40 Smallest of litter (4)

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

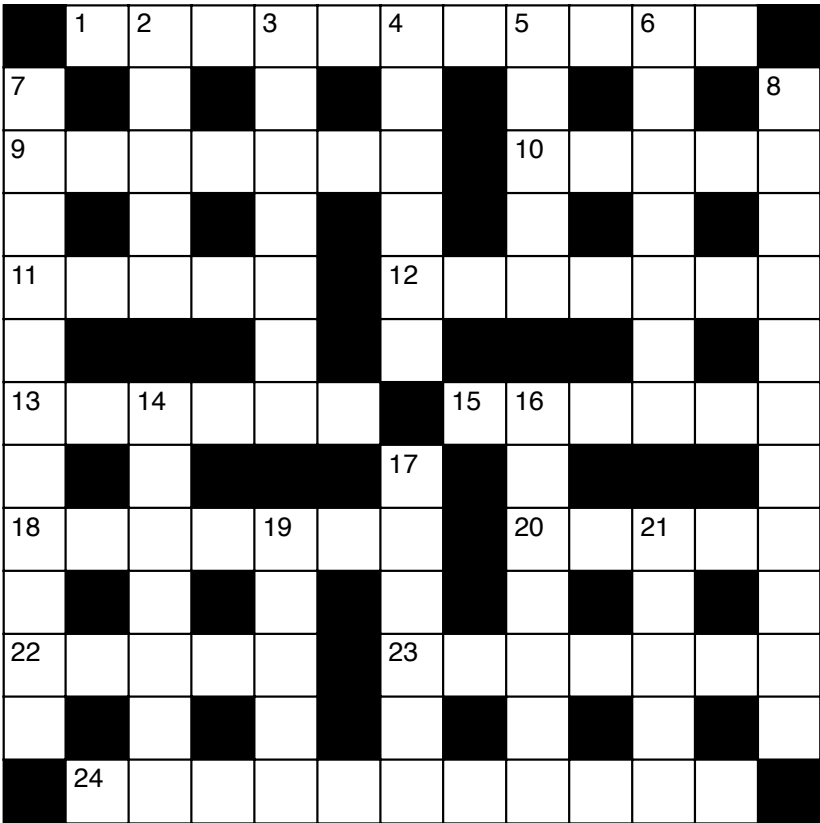
This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1. Shows active elation – until one runs out of bounds? (5,3,3)
9. One who pays to be a permanent resident (7)
10. Go and get an article to realise a certain price (5)
11. The sort of fumes coming from dreadful car I had! (5)
12. Clothing superior to everything else? (7)
13. Such a driver is likely to have several coaches (6)
15. He regularly gives his services (6)
18. Revolver's smoking – as a result of this range? (7)
20. In the rope-works is a long fibre (5)
22. What is accepted as the standard by a girl (5)
23. They burn parts of school uniforms! (7)
24. Subjecting to abuse – indisposed – prescribing a remedy (3-8)

DOWN

2. Make a statement extreme (5)
3. A row after a friend becomes a knight (7)
4. Distant line of little pigs (6)
5. Weapon used to do some looting? (5)
6. Go faster, but not in step! (7)
7. Spy near eastern country – he acts for the land-owners (6,5)
8. One whose pastime is post-impressionism? (11)
14. Common soldier who assumes command (7)
16. The others needing cunning to turn over a new leaf? (7)
17. Presumably the sort of mate to be relied upon (6)
19. This will beat one in a red suit (5)
21. Unbending at the back (5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. Expresses happiness (5,3,3)
9. Colonist (7)
10. Retrieve (5)
11. Pungent (5)
12. In general (7)
13. Motor (6)
15. Minister (6)
18. Report (7)
20. Rope fibre (5)
22. Girl's name (5)
23. Jackets (7)
24. Misusing (3-8)

DOWN

2. Say (5)
3. Knightly champion (7)
4. Sow's litter (6)
5. Firearm (5)
6. Overtake (7)
7. Property salesman (6,5)
8. Stamp collector (11)
14. Widespread (7)
16. Begin again (7)
17. Steady (6)
19. Vital organ (5)
21. Strict (5)

JUMBO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

13. Honest (2,3,5)
14. Stupid (7)
15. Beetle (6)
16. Bird (6)
17. Large drinks (7)
18. Recognises (5)
19. Long (4)
20. Animal (5)
21. Beginning (5)
22. Cover (6)
23. Lax (5)
28. Damaged (7)
30. Waiter (7)
33. Irritability (9)
36. Centre (6)
38. Material (5)
39. Gist (5)
40. Sell (6)
42. Meat (5)
43. Ardour (7)
44. Bench (6)
46. Section (4)
49. Swig (4)
51. Digress (6)
53. Appease (7)
55. Cook (5)
59. Substance (6)
60. Cherish (5)
61. Elegance (5)
62. Started (6)
63. Lie (9)
65. Free (7)
66. Drawn (7)
70. Pass on (5)
71. Mettle (6)
73. Figure (5)
75. Knot (5)
80. Entreat (4)
82. Nails (5)
83. Study (7)
84. Poured (6)
85. Stress (6)
86. Find (7)
87. Unwise (3-7)

DOWN

1. Punctual (2,4)
2. Devises (6,2)
3. Fabric (5)
4. Clear (7)
5. Refer (6)
6. Quip (5)
7. Wife, commonly (6)
8. Preserved (7)
9. Bearing (10)
10. Turn (5)
11. Happened (8)
12. Serve (4)
24. Teller (7)
25. Cap (5)
26. Engulf (7)
27. Excited (7)
29. Lift (5)
31. Follows (5)
32. Was borne (4)
34. Achieve (6)
35. As (4)
37. Drink (7)
41. Excellent (3-4)
45. Stagger (6)
47. Dark-skinned (7)
48. Whipped (7)
50. Disclosure (7)
52. Leave (4)
54. Form (5)
56. Guide (5)
57. Present (4)
58. Faithful (5)
60. Brochure (10)
64. Terrier (8)
67. Denied (8)
68. Swept (7)
69. Shows (7)
72. Assumption (6)
74. Find out (6)
76. Bright (6)
77. Unit of weight (5)
78. Hiding-place (5)
79. Slip (5)
81. Roster (4)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between these two pictures?

A

B

NUMBERCRUNCH

Follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row

Level	Start										Answer
BEGINNER	92	-71	x3	+12	11/15 of this	-41	x5	-62	x7	-41	
INTERMEDIATE	34	x5	-134	÷6	+12	x8	-51	2/3 of this	+78	11/14 of this	
ADVANCED	74	x3	-157	x5	-81	75% of this	-157	x5	-112	x15	

GIANT SUDOKU

Every row, every column and every 5 x 5 box must contain every digit from 1 to 9 and every letter from K to Z.

P			N		S		4			V	2		L	U		M						9	7	
		U					6				T	R	Z					N	O	4	8	M		L
		1					Q	P	3				4		R			K	6					U
			9		1	8			O			6	Y		7						W	K	X	
	X	8		Y	7		M	V	W	P			O						T					
X	L			2				Z		5		8									N		3	K
			O						P	6			T											8
6	N	P			V	M		7		9					K	W			1					
T		V			X	5	K		8	N	M						3	O	R		2	6	9	7
5	U		R	8	Q	W			T		K	4										P	1	
W	3						5			8	Y	O							N	V	R			Q
	V		8		2	U				S	L					4						X	T	
1	Q		L				Y		M			N	3		Z				X		6	W		
	4	5		O				1	X	M									S		Y	3		
		K			N	Z	8	S	4		R		1			2					5		U	
	9	7						K					Q		S	N	2					L	4	X
		S				Q	L			R					6	Y		8	Z		V			
				U		1		4		3		P							L	T	S	R		5
L		R	2			Y	N	T	7		9		M					U	3					P
Q		X		M	R				5	W	N	2	8				7	V		Y	3		Z	6
					T			Q		Y		3					V	M	P	1		2		
V	O			S	9	3			Y							X			5	N	Z	Q	W	
		T	5	Z		2		O	1	L	7						6		Y					
		6	4	9			7	R	V	T					N	O		L	U	5				M
7							W		L							S		Z					P	V

MEDIUM SUDOKU 1

9				7				4
		6	3				5	
	1		9		5	3		
1		7			9			
		8		1		7	3	
3			4			2		6
		4	7				9	
5	7				2	1		
8				9			7	5

VERY HARD SUDOKU 1

8					7	4		
		2	8					3
9	5						6	
					4	7		9
	1						3	
6		9	3					
	9						7	1
2					9	5		
		3	5					8

CROSS OUT 1

CROSS OUT 2

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

Cross Out 1

R / P	R / S	L / O	N / Z	T / G
A / I	■	O / D	■	R / W
V / F	I / O	D / N	D / K	S / A
F / E	■	E / L	■	D / M
D / S	T / X	Y / R	X / L	E / S

Cross Out 2

R / G	I / L	T / A	M / N	T / P
L / A	■	R / L	■	A / O
N / T	R / L	O / E	L / E	L / S
E / T	■	N / U	■	S / T
R / S	K / P	T / A	D / Z	E / T

IMPOSSUDOKU 1

	5				1	7		6
1		9	2	5				
		4				3		5
		5	9		2	4		
3		8				9		
				9	8	6		4
8		2	7				3	

MEDIUM SUDOKU 2

	3		9					4
2					3	7	9	
		9		4			8	
	9	7				2		8
	5		6		2		1	
1				7		9		
	8			6		4		
		6	7		9			2
3		1			5		6	

VERY HARD SUDOKU 2

	4		8	6	3		7	
		6	5		2	8		
8				1				9
		9				6		
3				2				7
		5	6		9	3		
	1		3	5	7		8	

IMPOSSUDOKU 2

			1		8		3	
	7			2				
							5	2
7			3	8				
	5		6			1		8
2						3		7
				6	5		9	
9		6				5		
		3		7	9			

PATHFINDER 1

PATHFINDER 2

From the top corner, make a path of words linked to the theme. The trail goes through each letter once but never diagonally.

The Wizard of Oz film words and phrases

T D O D O R H Y W E Y E L L O
O A K S A O T T E S T O R K W
R N A N S Y B O H O H A D C B
H T A I L S U T T F C C S I R
E G D P P E R O W I T A W A R
O O N I L R K E D C E R O L D
D T C H G S C I W R O N C Y L
W I U M K I A N D T W A N O I
A L N C H N L A R I N M P E S
C P O E R E H L E M N I O I W
E L N S Y G T D C E B A P P I
K I M E D A Y T I W O R E G N
E H O J U R L R E O V T H E D
O L I N E T A E E M E R E K M
R O C H C D N H W O S S Y N O

Asian capitals

T Y O D H I N L O M V I R A N
O K J U A B E O C B O E H E T
U R E B A D W U S A H N A N E
S A I L A E L C O N I T I G N
E L N M L U H S I D L K O K A
M M A A N O I A M A I D H A B
A J A M A E S I T C N G O D G
K A N H R U T A W I A B E I N
T R E B I E K U U T Y G N J I
A M P A G B D A K Y P Y O A H
I O N H H D A L L U B A R N D
S L E P S U D A L U A K A K A
M A R O I N N A M M P A M I Y
A D T P A G I K H R U K U R T
B A B I L I S A T D H A S C A

WORDSEARCH 1

WORDSEARCH 2

Find 13 words in the left and 13 words in the right grid.

Characters from King Lear

R B U R G U N D Y F
E C Y U W R S Q F Z
T O N R P L Q O D J
S R A G D E O G N Q
E D B N T L O T U O
C E L O A N V L M S
U L A S E G E S D W
O I E R W A E K E A
L A I N R X Q R L L
G L L A W N R O C D

Shapes

T R A P E Z I U M E
N E R A U Q S C L R
O N T R I A N G L E
G C G D C O N E A H
A A T V G A D X Q P
N O G A T N E P W S
O C X C G D W X C D
N E E R H O M B U S
H R G T K Z N U B N
D E C A G O N K E N

ARROWWORD 1

African country
Travel permit
Adhesive
Cry in pain
Type of duck
Measure of electrical resistance
Lean on
Stitch
_ Geller, illusionist
Woman getting married
Cricket term (inits.)
Large boat
Greek god of war
Japanese sash
Beer
Course
Call a taxi
Nevis, Scottish mountain
_ Swinton, actress
Sneak a look

ARROWWORD 2

Loosen a belt
_ Jolie, actress
Begin again
Alcoholic spirit
Type of pasta
Coastal cove
Rubbish container
Burial ceremony
Cloth remnant
Former Russian leader
Depend upon
The heavens
Liquid
Until now
Departed
Allow
Place a wager
Zero
Extremely small

SOLUTIONS

PAGE ONE

ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Mischa; 4 Speleers; 10 Cameron; 11 Outhwaite; 12 Dexter; 16 French; 18 Leigh; 19 Jones; 22 Sir; 23 Elvis; 24 Scott; 25 Ian; 27 Eddie; 29 Annie; 30 Edward; 31 Celine; 37 Gabriella; 38 Enrique; 39 Sheridan; 40 Izzard.

Down: 1 Michael Caine; 2 Simm; 3 Hart; 5 Peter; 6 Lowe; 7 Rita; 8 Anne; 9 Norton; 13 Ben; 14 Piven; 15 Chevy; 17 Harry Enfield; 19 Jesse; 20 Susie; 21 Novak; 22 Stone; 26 Jay; 28 Dallas; 31 Cilla; 32 Noel; 33 Cash; 34 Jimi; 35 Cruz; 36 Aqua.

CODEWORD

1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	S	G	O	L	K	W	M	E	P	Y	U	N
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
R	D	I	X	H	Z	B	T	J	A	Q	V	C

2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	P	C	M	L	J	E	O	G	T	Y	U	W
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
Q	N	K	A	B	I	V	X	R	H	F	Z	S

PAGES TWO AND THREE:

SAMURAI SUDOKU

EASY SUDOKU

FUTOSHIKI

1

4	2	1	5	3
1	3	2	4	5
2	5	4	3	1
3	1	5	2	4
5	4	3	1	2

2

2	1	5	4	3
3	4	1	5	2
4	3	2	1	5
1	5	3	2	4
5	2	4	3	1

NUMBERFIT

KAKURO

HARD SUDOKU

KILLER SUDOKU

ALPHADOKU

PAGES FOUR AND FIVE:

BIG CROSSWORD 1

Across: 9 Apologise; 10 Universal; 12 Have; 13 Insist; 14 Pilgrim; 15 Thrilling; 17 Misshapen; 18 Channel; 19 Throbs; 20 Aria; 23 Principle; 25 Presently; 26 Sane; 27 Morsel; 29 Surplus; 32 Somnolent; 34 Expressed; 35 Regrets; 36 Record; 37 Onus; 38 Petticoat; 39 Posthaste.

Down: 1 Pathetic; 2 Conversation; 3 Biennial; 4 Seeing; 5 Customer; 6 Disposable; 7 Wealthy; 8 Elementary; 11 Scrap; 16 Lunacy; 19 Toe; 21 Ruthlessness; 22 Decree; 23 Postscript; 24 Profession; 25 Pal; 28 Saturate; 29 Suppress; 30 Sidestep; 31 Polemic; 33 Might; 34 Escape.

BIG CROSSWORD 2

Across: 8 Hexagon; 9 Repugnant; 13 Ocean; 14 Peach; 15 Lairage; 16 Fiddler; 17 Glint; 18 Oomph; 20 Rebut; 22 Tartan; 23 Missed; 25 Fashion; 27 Boulder; 30 Galore; 31 Column; 32 Royal; 35 Aisle; 36 Heart; 37 Enliven; 39 Strudel; 41 Adder; 42 Verse; 43 Unguarded; 44 Beanbag.

Down: 1 Defend; 2 Gauntlet; 3 Corporation; 4 Technical; 5 Duality; 6 Antisocial; 7 Inca; 10 Coffer; 11 Badgers; 12 Method; 19 Mystery; 21 Beagles; 24 Downhearted; 26 Horrendous; 28 Soda water; 29 Custody; 30 Glassy; 32 Relevant; 33 Lancer; 34 Cholera; 38 Verbal; 40 Runt.

JUMBO CROSSWORD

Across: 13 On the level; 14 Asinine; 15 Weevil; 16 Linnet; 17 Doubles; 18 Knows; 19 Ache; 20 Beast; 21 Onset; 22 Sheath; 23 Slack; 28 Chipped; 30 Steward; 33 Testiness; 36 Middle; 38 Twill; 39 Drift; 40 Retail; 42 Steak; 43 Passion; 44 Settle; 46 Part; 49 Slug; 51 Wander; 53 Placate; 55 Roast; 59 Matter; 60 Prize; 61 Grace; 62 Opened; 63 Falsehood; 65 Release; 66 Haggard; 70 Relay; 71 Spirit; 73 Seven; 75 Hitch; 80 Pray; 82 Tacks; 83 Examine; 84 Lashed; 85 Strain; 86 Unearth; 87 Ill-advised.

Down: 1 On time; 2 Thinks up; 3 Cloth; 4 Evident; 5 Allude; 6 Sally; 7 Missus; 8 Pickled; 9 Deportment; 10 Twist; 11 Befallen; 12 Dish; 24 Cashier; 25 Beret; 26 Swallow; 27 Stirred; 29 Hoist; 31 Tails; 32 Rode; 34 Attain; 35 Like; 37 Draught; 41 Top-hole; 45 Totter; 47 Swarthy; 48 Flogged; 50 Leakage; 52 Exit; 54 Class; 56 Steer; 57 Here; 58 Loyal; 60 Prospectus; 64 Sealyham; 67 Gainsaid; 68 Brushed; 69 Reveals; 72 Theory; 74 Elicit; 76 Clever; 77 Stone; 78 Cache; 79 Slide; 81 Rota.

TWO-SPEED

Across: 1 Jumps for joy; 9 Settler; 10 Fetch; 11 Acrid; 12 Overall; 13 Engine; 15 Priest; 18 Gunshot; 20 Sisal; 22 Norma; 23 Blazers; 24 Ill-treating.

Down: 2 Utter; 3 Paladin; 4 Farrow; 5 Rifle; 6 Outpace; 7 Estate agent; 8 Philatelist; 14 General; 16 Restart; 17 Stable; 19 Heart; 21 Stern.

NUMBERCRUNCH

Beginner – 15
Intermediate – 110
Advanced – 270

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

PAGES SIX AND SEVEN:

PATHFINDER

1 Tornado, Kansas, Dorothy, Toto, Ruby Slippers, Glinda the Good Witch, Munchkinland, Wicked Witch of the West, Yellow Brick Road, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, Poppies, Winged Monkeys, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Emerald City, There's no place like home, Judy Garland, Technicolor.

2 Tokyo, Jerusalem, Manila, Abu Dhabi, New Delhi, Seoul, Manama, Jakarta, Islamabad, Tbilisi, Kathmandu, Singapore, Phnom Penh, Baghdad, Beirut, Kuala Lumpur, Dhaka, Muscat, Riyadh, Ankara, Kabul, Kuwait City, Pyongyang, Beijing, Doha, Bangkok, Dili, Hanoi, Damascus, Colombo, Vientiane, Tehran.

GIANT SUDOKU

MEDIUM SUDOKU

VERY HARD SUDOKU

IMPOSSUDOKU

CROSS OUT

1

P	R	O	N	G
A		D		R
V	O	D	K	A
E		L		D
S	T	Y	L	E

2

G	I	A	N	T
A		R		A
T	R	E	E	S
E		N		T
S	P	A	D	E

ARROWWORD

WORDSEARCH

EURO 2024

in association with William HILL

Italy coach vents anger over late-night gaming

By **Mark Jones**

LUCIANO SPALLETTI has warned his Italy squad not to be on their PlayStations late at night.

Ahead of the defending champions' Euro 2024 opener against Albania today, angry head coach Spalletti said: "What I'm interested in is that they actually sleep at night.

"I'm not bothered about what exactly it is they do but they do so at the right time of day. I don't allow people being up until all hours so the next morning they're not completely rested and can't go to train.

"I've got nothing against any sort of video game.

"I've even had a go on it myself. I'll post it on social media to prove it."

WARNING: Spalletti has told his squad to rest

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

INSIDE

DAILY EXPRESS

ITALY v ALBANIA
GROUP B: BVB Stadion Dortmund
TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

IDOL

Glove affair with Gigi has Donnarumma dreaming

BY **MARK JONES**

GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA is embracing his new role as Italy's leader – and he has Italian goalkeeping royalty by his side as he does so.

Paris Saint-Germain stopper Donnarumma ***(right)*** is one of few survivors from the Italy squad that won Euro 2020, where his penalty shootout saves from England's Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka secured glory at Wembley.

As the nation's new captain, he is determined to take the lessons learned from that success to Germany, where the Azzurri kick off their campaign against Albania today.

"Captaincy doesn't change me," he said. "Sure, it is an additional responsibility but it won't change anything. There are a number of leaders within this squad. They'll make themselves heard, and I will as well. I think that's what my role is.

"Our spirit will be the same one that we had three years ago. We'll try and reproduce those magical nights from 2021. The team are ready.

"The previous Euro was fantastic and they are unforgettable experiences. We've written history and now we're going to try to write another page of history for Italy."

While Donnarumma is busy instilling the values of 2021 into the squad's ears, he will have the wise words of 2006 World Cup winner Gianluigi Buffon ***(inset, top right)*** in his.

The goalkeeping legend has taken on the role of National Team Delegation Head, a position filled by the late, great Gianluca Vialli during Italy's success of three years ago. Donnarumma hopes his presence will make all the difference.

"Having Gigi here, a player who wrote history with Italy, has been hugely important," said Donnarumma.

"He tells us a little bit about his experiences. He told us about the unforgettable summer that they had in 2006. Having him here is already great because Gigi offers so much but hearing him tell the story, give you advice, is even better.

"He can certainly give us advice on what's gone down in history."

While few in Italy doubt the ability of their new national captain between the sticks, much of the talk among fans has been of the other end of the pitch, where West Ham flop Gianluca Scamacca is set to lead the line after a whirlwind few months that saw him shoot down Liverpool en route to winning the Europa League.

"Gianluca is a top-class centre-forward and he's made giant strides recently," said his captain.

"I've watched every single one of his matches and he's done incredible things. I'm pleased for him and I'm pleased for us as well, because Scamacca really can be a matchwinner.

"He's a good target man to have out there when the going gets tough."

Donnarumma also faces the added task of adhering to a new UEFA Euro 2024 rule, which attempts to ban all players who are not the captain from speaking to match officials, something that comes with added complications when your captain is the goalkeeper.

Explaining how he will tackle it, Donnarumma said: "When there are situations near the penalty area then I will go across and speak to the match officials but before games we will decide as to who is going to speak to the referees for situations far from the penalty area.

"It might be Jorginho or Nicolo Barella, we'll decide just before kick-off."

Barella is set to start after proving his fitness in training this week, while Scamacca will lead the line.

JORGINHO'S AZZURRI HAVE POINT TO

BY **DANIEL ORME**

JORGINHO will be out to prove that old dogs still have new tricks in Germany despite the huge overhaul that reigning European champions Italy have undergone.

The Azzurri memorably lifted the title three years ago at Wembley as they beat tournament hosts England. Since then, the side has gone through several dramatic changes.

Only nine players from those glory days remain, while former boss Roberto Mancini has departed and been replaced by ex-Napoli head coach Luciano Spalletti. He has since named a squad without a host of recognisable names.

Giorgio Chiellini (right) has retired, Marco Verratti is no longer in contention, while Ciro Immobile has also been left out. New names such as Andrea Cambiaso, Michael Folorunsho and Mateo Retegui have all emerged.

Those changes have come amid a shock failure to qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. It has all left Italy outside of the favourites for the trophy.

While Italy look different, one constant remains: former Chelsea and current Arsenal midfielder Jorginho (left). The now 32-year-old was crucial to his nation's success three years ago.

His form at the tournament – and for Chelsea the preceding campaign – saw him named the UEFA Men's Player of the Year, while he also came third in that year's Ballon d'Or voting. Keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma is captain, but there is no doubt that Jorginho will be aiming to play a pivotal role once

HANDS

ITALY (3-4-3)
Donnarumma; Darmian, Buongiorno, Bastoni; Di Lorenzo, Jorginho, Barella, Dimarco; Frattesi, Chiesa, Scamacca
ALBANIA (4-3-3)
Berisha; Hysaj, Ajeti, Djimsiti, Mihaj; Bajrami, Ramadani, Asllani; Seferi, Asani, Broja
REF: Felix Zwayer (Ger)
TV: BBC One

BLUE HEAVEN
Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini pose with the 2020 trophy after beating England

PROVE TO THEMSELVES

more. He said: "We are still Italy, there is always going to be respect and it will not be easy for anyone to play against us."

After all, Jorginho will be aiming to overcome a couple of disappointments on the club front. He has lost out in each of the past two seasons with Arsenal challenging for the Premier League title.

The Gunners were edged out on the final day by Manchester City. For the time being, Jorginho will aim to put that behind him.

There is no doubt added pressure on the Italians this time around, having lifted the trophy three years ago.

Spalletti is aware of this and he said: "In my opinion, coming into the tournament as defending champions is an advantage.

"We need to understand straight away that we need to behave like defending champions. Italy has chosen us to represent our nation but we will only see whether or not we are up to the task during the matches. We need to show that.

"We need to convince ourselves, not only the fans.

"In a way, we are facing ourselves, not the outside world. We need to show what we are made of, to show what we have inside."

RED ARMY IS COUNTING ON SYLVINHO

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

ALBANIA are out to knock reigning European champions Italy off their perch – with help from their fanatical support.

Over 50,000 Albanian fans are due to descend on Dortmund today for their Group B opener, meaning Italy will be heavily outnumbered despite boasting a population of more than 60 million.

When asked what that means to the nation, proud boss Sylvinho (above) said: "It means that we have so many Albanians throughout the world.

"We know there are a lot in Germany, Italy and Switzerland. It's a huge responsibility for us to represent these wonderful people.

"It will be even better to see it for real in a full stadium where most will be wearing red."

Former Arsenal left-back Sylvinho (below, with the Gunners), who finished his career at Manchester City and has Pablo Zabaleta as his assistant, is adamant Albania can spoil the party in the group of death.

He continued: "We know what a big competition this is and we know how big our opponents are.

"I remember at the 2018 World Cup with Brazil, we drew against Switzerland in our opening match.

"If you don't win your first game, the guys who are favourites are already struggling.

"We do have pressure on us but we've come to give it a go. It's crucial for Italy because they're the champions and they can't afford to make many mistakes."

Sylvinho is facing a late call on star striker Armando Broja, who barely featured during a frustrating loan spell with Fulham during the second half of the recent campaign.

The Brazilian coach is concerned Broja is short of "football fitness" despite doing everything within his power to force his way into the starting XI.

Meanwhile, captain Berat Djimsiti – fresh off the back of a Europa League triumph with Atalanta – was full of praise for his manager after Albania topped their qualification group.

The 31-year-old defender said: "We saw how much we improved after just one year. He has brought a lot of joy because we know how he works to make our national team better.

"Everyone knows he was a great footballer but now we've seen his managerial skills.

"We respect Italy as European champions but we believe in ourselves.

"This match could prove to be the start of something."

175 CAPS – BUT MODRIC IS NOT HERE TO MAKE UP NUMBERS

Croatian Maestro is keen to point out Group B is not all about Spain & Italy

BY **ALEX RICHARDS**

LUKA MODRIC has warned Europe's big guns that Croatia are not at Euro 2024 just to make up the numbers.

As a serial collector of titles in the Champions League, the Real Madrid man knows a thing or two about winning.

And when the 38-year-old senses his country are being overlooked, he does not mind making his feelings clear.

Croatia kick off their campaign against Spain in Berlin's Olympiastadion today – but if anyone thinks that after 175 caps Modric's fire might have dimmed when it comes to representing his country at a major finals, then they are very much mistaken.

Modric bristled when asked from the outset repeated questions about Spain, before cutting in and making his point that Croatia cannot be dismissed.

"We are here to make a big result," he said, when asked if he was "bored" of playing the 2008 and 2012 winners. The pair are meeting for a fourth successive Euros, having also played each other three times in the Nations League recently.

"In recent years we've shown that we belong. In the World Cup. In the Nations League. But in the European Championship, we've missed these final results," Modric added. That is something Modric and Co are looking to make up for.

Croatia's players feel they have not done themselves justice in their last three appearances.

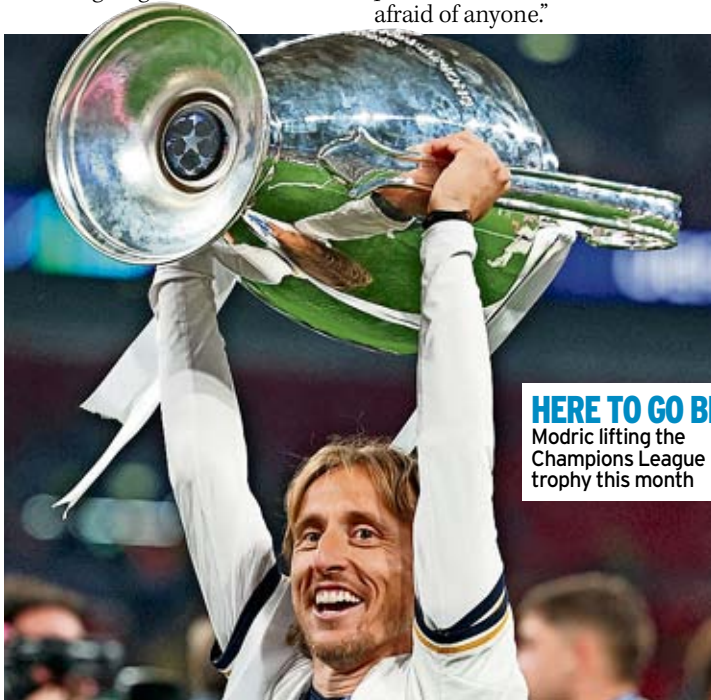
At Euro 2020, Spain saw them off in the round of 16, winning a 5-3 thriller. Portugal beat them in extra-time at the same stage four years previously.

At Euro 2012, in a group with Spain and Italy – who along with Albania make up the Group B foursome this time around – they did not get out.

But that was then. Croatia were World Cup finalists in 2018 – defeating England in the last four – and semi-finalists in 2022. Modric said: "It is a difficult group. We know this. But we've shown in the last few years that we can compete with the best national teams in the world.

"Spain are one of the favourites for the competition in my opinion. But if we do our best, we can achieve a great result. We're here to go big and I hope we succeed."

It was a sentiment echoed by head coach Zlatko Dalic, who insisted his side will not hold back in their opening game.

"It will be a demanding match but our national team is very powerful," Dalic said. "We're not afraid of anyone."

HERE TO GO BIG Modric lifting the Champions League trophy this month

WE ARE BACK
Rodri says Spain are out to put their recent poor form behind them

IT'S A TKO FOR TIKI TAKA NOW

Rodri: Winning is only style that matters

BY **ALEX RICHARDS**

RODRI has told his Spain team-mates that it is time to finally forget about Tiki Taka.

The Manchester City midfielder captains La Roja at Euro 2024 and will win his 51st cap in tonight's meeting with Croatia.

And while he is never shy of offering an opinion or two on how rival teams should or shouldn't play the game at club level, Rodri's message to his international colleagues is a simple one: The only thing that matters is winning.

When asked how Spain should play in Berlin's Olympiastadion as they begin their bid to become European champions once more, Rodri responded simply: "The style that leads us to victory.

"Every team is different and plays in different ways. It would be a mistake to think that only one style would lead us to victory.

"You have to adapt and change. At times you need one thing, at others another.

"I hope we control the game. But it's all about having a style that leads to victory."

The pressure is on the Euro 2008 and 2012 winners, having failed to go past the last 16 stage at four of the last five major tournaments.

But Rodri insists: "We've come here to win and show that Spain are able to win the Euros again.

"We're not thinking about anything else. We need to compete from the first minute. We need to know what is needed to win. And we're not allowed to slip up or have 10 bad minutes or you'll be sent home. You have to stay the course for 90 minutes and be strong in both boxes."

They will be without former Manchester City defender Aymeric Laporte (below), with boss Luis de la Fuente unwilling to risk him as he recovers from a muscle injury.

"He had a chance to play but we are going to rest him and see if he has a chance to play on Thursday (v Italy)," he said..

"If everything goes to plan then he will play then.

"He didn't get injured, he's just had some issues. I decided he won't play. It's a precautionary measure."

Yet while Laporte is being held back, Barcelona's 16-year-old wonderkid Lamine Yamal looks set to be unleashed from the start.

"He's a young boy with incredible talent," said De La Fuente. "It's almost a gift from God. Few players have his talent."

POLAND v HOLLAND
GROUP D: Volksparkstadion Hamburg
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

RON TAKES A SWIPE AT BARCELONA

FROM **CHARLIE GORDON**

HOLLAND manager Ronald Koeman has pointed the finger at former club Barcelona for worsening his side's injury crisis.

The Oranje head into their Euro 2024 opener against Poland tomorrow without midfielders Frenkie de Jong and Teun Koopmeiners, who were both withdrawn from the squad.

And the ankle injury De Jong suffered while playing for Barca in April has not sat well with Koeman, above.

He said: "The player has a history with this injury and his club have taken risks with him.

"That leaves us in a bad situation with Frenkie. Tests have shown that he is not yet in good enough condition."

Chelsea's Ian Maatsen, who has been on loan at Borussia Dortmund, has been called up as a replacement, along with Manchester United and Arsenal target Joshua Zirkzee, who cut short a trip to Disney World to join his countrymen.

Poland have their own injuries after record scorer Robert Lewandowski tore a leg muscle against Turkey on Monday.

The 35-year-old is sure to miss the Holland game, and may even struggle to make his nation's last Group D clash against France on June 25. Pawel Dawidowicz and Karol Swiderski also face late fitness tests ahead of the trip to Volksparkstadion Hamburg.

POLAND: Szczesny; Bednarek, Dawidowicz, Kiwior; Frankowski, Moder, Slisz, Zalewski; Zielinski, Urbanski; Buksa
HOLLAND: Verbruggen; Dumfries, De Vrij, Van Dijk, Ake; Reijnders, Schouten, Veerman; Simons, Depay, Gakpo
REF: A Dias (Por)

CHANGE OF HEART
Xhaka is back enjoying his football after an incredible debut season at Leverkusen

XHAKA FEELS LOVED AGAIN

Swiss star relishing life after Arsenal

HUNGARY v SWITZERLAND
GROUP A: Cologne Stadium
TODAY, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

FROM **MARK JONES**

IT took leaving Arsenal for Granit Xhaka to finally find himself as a footballer and he believes that new-found maturity will help Switzerland at Euro 2024.

Xhaka called time on an up-and-down Arsenal career last summer after seven turbulent years at the Emirates, which included him being booed by Gunners supporters and losing the captaincy.

But the change of scene proved beneficial for the combative midfielder, as he starred in Xabi Alonso's domestically unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen side.

The 31-year-old won a league and cup double, as well as reaching the Europa League final, while he was voted the second-best player in the Bundesliga last season by his fellow professionals.

And Xhaka admits he is a different man now from his Arsenal days.

"Yes, success brings self-esteem," said Switzerland's captain ahead of his side's Group A opener against Hungary in Cologne this afternoon.

"It's been an important challenge for me to have this season, and it's a pleasure to be at Bayer Leverkusen every day."

Xhaka is hoping the experiences picked up during Leverkusen's remarkable campaign will rub off on his Swiss team-mates, and he has told them he is planning on a long stay at the tournament.

"It wasn't the perfect season with Leverkusen because we lost the Europa League final," he said.

"However, it was a new chapter, a new challenge, and we have new challenges with the national team now. Those who know me know I don't like to talk about ifs, buts and maybes. I've packed my luggage to stay here for a long time. It's like that with my club, and it's like that with my national team as well."

Xhaka and his team-mates must get the better of Hungary and their hugely popular and confident manager Marco Rossi, left.

The Italian was awarded Hungarian citizenship last October for leading the nation to Germany.

He even had a film made about him in Hungary after achieving remarkable results, including a 4-0 win over England at Molineux two years ago.

"I don't know what will happen," said Rossi. "We didn't get to the Euros by chance but because we earned it. We want to be protagonists and give joy to the fans."

HUNGARY: Gulacsi; Lang, Orban, Szalai; Bolla, Nagy, Schafer, Kerkez; Sallai, Szoboszlai; Varga.
SWITZERLAND: Sommer; Elvedi, Akanji, Rodriguez; Widmer, Freuler, Xhaka, Ndoye; Shaqiri, Amdouni, Vargas
REF: S Vincic (Slo)

UEFA EURO 2024 RESULTS

GROUP A
GERMANY, SCOTLAND, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND

GERMANY 5
Wirtz 10, Musiala 19, Havertz 45+1 pen, Fullkrug 68, Can 90+3
SCOTLAND 1
Rudiger 87 og

HUNGARY ...
SWITZERLAND ...
Cologne Stadium
TODAY, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

GERMANY ...
HUNGARY ...
Stuttgart Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

SCOTLAND ...
SWITZERLAND ...
Cologne Stadium
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

SWITZERLAND ...
GERMANY ...
Frankfurt Arena
SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

SCOTLAND ...
HUNGARY ...
Stuttgart Arena
SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GROUP B
SPAIN, CROATIA, ITALY, ALBANIA

SPAIN ...
CROATIA ...
Olympiastadion Berlin
TODAY, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

ITALY ...
ALBANIA ...
BVB Stadion Dortmund
TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

CROATIA ...
ALBANIA ...
Volksparkstadion Hamburg
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

SPAIN ...
ITALY ...
Arena AufSchalke
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

CROATIA ...
ITALY ...
Leipzig Stadium
MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

ALBANIA ...
SPAIN ...
Düsseldorf Arena
MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GROUP C
SLOVENIA, SERBIA, DENMARK, ENGLAND

SLOVENIA ...
DENMARK ...
Stuttgart Arena
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

SERBIA ...
ENGLAND ...
Arena AufSchalke
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

SLOVENIA ...
SERBIA ...
Munich Football Arena
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

DENMARK ...
ENGLAND ...
Frankfurt Arena
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

ENGLAND ...
SLOVENIA ...
Cologne Stadium
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

DENMARK ...
SERBIA ...
Munich Football Arena
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP D
POLAND, HOLLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE

POLAND ...
HOLLAND ...
Volksparkstadion Hamburg
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

AUSTRIA ...
FRANCE ...
Düsseldorf Arena
MONDAY JUNE 17, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

POLAND ...
AUSTRIA ...
Olympiastadion Berlin
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

HOLLAND ...
FRANCE ...
Leipzig Stadium
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

HOLLAND ...
AUSTRIA ...
Olympiastadion Berlin
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

FRANCE ...
POLAND ...
BVB Stadion Dortmund
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

GROUP E
BELGIUM, SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE

ROMANIA ...
UKRAINE ...
Munich Football Arena
MONDAY JUNE 17, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

BELGIUM ...
SLOVAKIA ...
Frankfurt Arena
MONDAY JUNE 17, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

SLOVAKIA ...
UKRAINE ...
Düsseldorf Arena
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

BELGIUM ...
ROMANIA ...
Cologne Stadium
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

SLOVAKIA ...
ROMANIA ...
Frankfurt Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

UKRAINE ...
BELGIUM ...
Stuttgart Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

GROUP F
TURKEY, GEORGIA, PORTUGAL, CZECH REP

TURKEY ...
GEORGIA ...
BVB Stadion Dortmund
TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

PORTUGAL ...
CZECH REP ...
Leipzig Stadium
TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GEORGIA ...
CZECH REP ...
Volksparkstadion Hamburg
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

TURKEY ...
PORTUGAL ...
BVB Stadion Dortmund
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

CZECH REP ...
TURKEY ...
Volksparkstadion Hamburg
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GEORGIA ...
PORTUGAL ...
Arena AufSchalke
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP A TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

GROUP B TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP C TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP D TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP E TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP F TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ROUND OF 16

GAME 37: 1A V 2C
BVB Stadion Dortmund SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 8PM (Dortmund)

GAME 38: 2A V 2B
Olympiastadion Berlin SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 5PM (Berlin)

GAME 39: 1B V 3A/D/E/F
Cologne Stadium SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 8PM (Cologne)

GAME 40: 1C V 3D/E/F
Arena AufSchalke SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 5PM (Gelsenkirchen)

GAME 41: 1F V 3A/B/C
Frankfurt Arena MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 8PM (Frankfurt)

GAME 42: 2D V 2E
Düsseldorf Arena MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 5PM (Dusseldorf)

GAME 43: 1E V 3A/B/C/D
Munich Football Arena TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 5PM (Munich)

GAME 44: 1D V 2F
Leipzig Stadium TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 8PM (Leipzig)

SEMI-FINALS

GAME 49: W45 V W46
Munich Football Arena TUESDAY JULY 9, KICK-OFF 8PM (Munich)

GAME 50: W47 V W48
BVB Stadion Dortmund WEDNESDAY JULY 10, KICK-OFF 8PM (Dortmund)

FINAL

GAME 51: WINNER 49 V WINNER 50
Olympiastadion Berlin SUNDAY JULY 14, KICK-OFF 8PM (Berlin)

QUARTER-FINALS

GAME 45: W39 V W37
Stuttgart Arena FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 5PM (Stuttgart)

GAME 46: W41 V W42
Volksparkstadion Hamburg FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 8PM (Hamburg)

GAME 47: W43 V W44
Olympiastadion Berlin SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 8PM (Berlin)

GAME 48: W40 V W38
Düsseldorf Arena SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 5PM (Düsseldorf)

EURO REWIND

FRENCH FRIED A nine-goal semi-final saw France defeated picture: UEFA

FRANCE? YUGO FIRST

An amazing match saw the much-fancied hosts stunned in Paris

FRANCE 4 YUGOSLAVIA 5
Euro 1960 Semi-final: Parc des Princes, Paris, Wednesday July 6

THE first European Championship was something of an experiment but it threw up one of the greatest matches in the competition's history.

Everything was in place for France and it was hard to argue a case against the host nation lifting the trophy. After all, it was a Frenchman who had come up with the idea of a championship between countries some 40 years earlier.

Football administrator Henri Delaunay had the idea in the 1920s but, with the Second World War and political upheaval, it wasn't until 1960 that his plan was realised. The Henri Delaunay Trophy was named in honour of the founding father of the tournament and is still played for to this day.

The fact that most of the UEFA power-brokers were French also seemed compelling enough reason to stage the inaugural event in Paris.

Some of today's footballing giants didn't sign up for the event – England, West Germany and Italy all declining, in a move that seemed reminiscent of clubs who chose to ignore the European Cup when it started some five years earlier. Imagine clubs or countries choosing not to enter now.

By the time a series of 1960 qualification games were done, it left the hosts in one semi-final against Yugoslavia while Russia took on Czechoslovakia in the other. So the pressure was on France.

They had dazzled at the 1958 World Cup, finishing third, and a crowd of just over 26,000 attended the first European Championship semi-final.

All seemed to be going to plan when Les Bleus recovered from an early setback to put their stamp on the game.

Within a minute of Milan Galic firing the Slavs ahead 11 minutes into the game, Jean Vincent pegged them back and a second goal from Francois Huette sent them in 2-1 up at the break. Early in the second half France went 3-1 up only to concede another but Huette's second goal took France into the final 15 minutes 4-2 up.

Some of the home fans were already making their way out of the stadium when Tomislav Knez grabbed a goal back and those that stayed must have left in a daze as Drazan Jerkovic floored them with two goals inside a minute.

Three goals in four minutes sent the French out and the Yugoslavs to the final.